Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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**OPINION METER**

This week's poll:

**Based on your current understanding of the CW rule, how would you rate the ease or difficulty it presents to doing business in the Commonwealth?**

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

**More Deaths**

The death toll in the earthquake that hit India, Nepal and China rises to 81.

ASIA...Page 15

**25 Years**

Hyatt Regency Saipan GM Nick Nishikawa and wife Pamela mark 25 years of wedded bliss.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Delayed financial aid a distraction for scholars at NMC. PAGE 2
Brief extension of health emergency declaration eyed. PAGE 4

# CW session draws questions on H1B and other INA visas

## » USCIS: CNMI nonresidents will not get green cards, US citizenship

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A two-hour session on the final Commonwealth-only worker rule yesterday for at least 156 member-representatives of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce drew several questions on H1B and other kinds of non-immigrant visas under the Immigration and Nationality Act, but some of the answers got some employers and employees worried.

See VISAS on Page 4

# 'Fund may have caused money managers to quit'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Attorney Michael Dotts expressed belief yesterday that the NMI Retirement Fund may have something to do with the decision of its money managers to quit and not because of the enactment of Public Law 17-51.

"It is unfortunate that some of the service providers for the Fund seem to have been scared off by the public law and we wonder if it was something the Fund told them that is actually causing them to leave rather than the new law," said Dotts.

In response, Fund board legal counsel Viola Alepuyo told *Saipan Tribune* last night that the Fund's money managers began terminating their contracts with the Fund as soon as the bill became law. Alepuyo said the managers had voiced their concerns before the law's enactment, "so them resigning is not a surprise."

"In any case, they [money managers] have legal teams much larger than ours and they reviewed the bill as well as the

See FUND on Page 4

**PROJECTS COMPLETED**

Acting governor Eloy Inos, third from right, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Utu Malae, fourth from left, lead other officials during the ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday in Sadog Tasi signifying the formal completion of three major water and wastewater projects worth over $4.8 million.

See story on Page 3

# Back-to-back session on Friday to pass budget

## » More budget agreements reached

Basa

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Although the conference committee did not come up with a draft budget yesterday as originally targeted, they were able to agree on more issues, including reinstating over $343,000 to the Executive Branch that the Senate had cut and giving the Public School System some $30 million and Northern Marianas College $5.2 million.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the eight-member panel, said last night that the panel expects to have a draft fiscal year 2012 budget this morning, and a final bill that will be pre-filed before 4:30pm today.

"This has been a smoother process than last

See BUDGET on Page 4

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# Local

## Delayed financial aid a distraction for scholars at NMC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Persistent delays in the release of financial aid from the local government's scholarship programs is taking its toll on Northern Marianas College students, particularly students from Rota and Tinian, according to a college official.

Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, said that many of the relocated students are experiencing difficulties in paying for rent and, in worse cases, have run out of food on their tables.

"Financial aids is always an issue…but it's particularly challenging this year because we're seeing a constant delay in the issuance of awards from the local government," he said.

Pangelinan said that many NMC students heavily rely on financial assistance checks from both the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance and the CNMI Scholarship Office. Because of the uncertainties in the issuance of financial assistance, students end up with nothing to meet obligations and needs, he added.

Many students, he said, have even been threatened or ejected from their apartments as a result of their unpaid obligation. NMC, in consideration of their situation, could only provide them a short extension to pay for tuition, books, and other fees.

Pangelinan said the college considers Pell grant as the most reliable collateral for students. The program is federally funded but is directly administered by NMC. He said about 70 to 80 percent of NMC students receive Pell grants, with a maximum aid of $2,775 per semester.

He said the college does not accept approved applications from SHEFA and CNMI Scholarship Office as collateral because of the "uncertainties" of the financial awards and potential changes from time to time in the programs' policies and regulations.

## Hundreds of seniors take part in career fair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Over 100 senior high school students, majority from Marianas High School and Kagman High School's cooperative education programs, took part in yesterday's Public School System High School Cooperative Education and Training and Secondary Transition Career Fair at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Kagman High School senior Eugeneio Delos Reyes, who was scouting for a part-time work, said that he needs to land a good job to prepare himself for the future.

"We're still high school students and many of us don't have that much work experience and for me, today is a good opportunity to start. I want to work while studying because I am pretty sure it will help me in my future."

With résumé and other credentials in hand, Delos Reyes applied at Triple J Motors, one of the company booths he visited yesterday.

MHS senior Oliver Iguel, a first-timer to the career fair, said he is still weighing his options with the three booths he visited: the Department of Labor, Joeten Enterprises, and the Judiciary. "I am still undecided which one I will try, but definitely I will get one," he said.

Iguel described as "fascinating and interesting" the information he got from each firm. "I feel the need for a job and practicing or preparing to get into the job would be the first step. Without this co-op educational program, it would be more difficult for me to enter the business industry," said Iguel.

Juleen Hiponia and Elaine Manalo, both seniors at MHS, said they came prepared for their interviews in hopes of getting part-time jobs or training. Hiponia wants to apply as a desk clerk at Saipan World Resort, while Manalo applied for a clerical office job at Pacific Islands Club.

Other groups of students said they want to get part-time jobs so they could help their parents, many of whom are government employees suffering from salary cuts.

Cooperative education is a structured method of combining classroom-based education with practical work experience and helps young people make the school-to-work transition.

Among those kept busy entertaining "visitors" yesterday was Fernando Romolor, the counselor aide at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Former lawmaker Juan T. Guerrero, owner of the Herman's Bakery, was also among the employers seen attending to "applicants." NMC Alumni Association president Jack Kiyoshi, along with some college staffers, was also seen promoting the college.

### Over 120 students, 29 companies

Co-op education and training program Tyce Mister was elated with yesterday's turnout, with over 120 senior students and 29 companies and groups from public and private sectors participating.

He believes this year's student attendance is the highest in recent years. Of the 120 students, 167 are from MHS; 28 from KHS; and the rest are from the special education secondary transition program. The career fair is conducted every semester.

"I know a lot of people think that the economy is struggling right now but our community is here to show that they do care about the young workforce and show them the careers and other opportunities that are available on island," said Mister.

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## Student gets a year for burglary

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman yesterday slapped a one-year prison term against a student who burglarized a poker arcade on Tinian.

Wiseman sentenced Craig H. Borja, 21, to five years in prison, all suspended except for one year, with credit for time served. Borja will begin serving the rest of his sentence in January 2012. After completing his sentence, he will be placed on three years of probation.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Borja with burglary, theft, and resisting arrest. He pleaded pleaded guilty to burglary as part of a plea deal. The remaining charges were dropped.

Detective Shawn Lee San Nicolas Borja stated in his report that the cashier at J.C. Café Poker had called for assistance on May 29, 2011, at 1:48am, after discovering the burglary. About $465 in bills and $178 of quarters were stolen from the booth.

At 2:35am that same day, two police officers did a routine check at U-Luck Poker 2 where they found Borja playing poker. Borja appeared nervous and later cried. Detective Borja said the defendant later admitted to the police he was responsible for the burglary at J.C. Café Poker. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

# CUC completes $4.8M water and wastewater projects

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Utu Malae and acting governor Eloy Inos announced yesterday the completion of three major water and wastewater projects worth over $4.8 million.

The two led the ribbon-cutting rites for the formal completion of the rehabilitation of the Sadog Tasi wastewater treatment plant, the Saipan well isolation project, and the initial phases of the installation of a 6-inch waterline project.

For the Sadog Tasi project, Malae said that CUC used $2.476 million from an Office of Insular Affairs grant and an American Recovery Reinvestment Act grant to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Sadog Tasi treatment plant was built in 1993 and has the capacity to treat more than three million gallons of wastewater a day. It serves almost 20,000 residents from Chalan Laulau in the south to the Marianas Resort in the north. At present, the treatment plant gets less than half of the 3 million gallon load, Malae said.

Malae

The project entailed replacing "the complicated, difficult-to-repair, energy-intensive fine-bubble aeration system with simpler and more efficient floating mechanical aerators." With these floating aerators, Malae said CUC can now operate only the number of treatment basins required based on the incoming flow. This will allow the plant to use less electricity than before, reducing CUC's operating expenses.

CUC used a $1.8 million ARRA grant to EPA for the Saipan well isolation project. This project removed 25 wells from the "direct feed" in the Kagman, Obyan, San Vicente, As Lito, and Koblerville areas. Direct feed is where a well pumps directly to customers' homes instead of to a tank first.

Eliminating direct feed improves the reliability of the system, Malae said, because tanks are located at high elevations and the pressure for water distribution is provided by gravity instead of a well pump.

For the installation of a six-inch distribution line along Isa Drive, CUC spent $482,767, also funded by ARRA. This project involved connecting hundreds of customers to the Capital Hill water storage tank.

The contractor for the three projects is GPPC Inc., represented by Diego Blanco in yesterday's ceremonies. Construction managements included JC Tenorio Engineers & Associates, Hofschneider Engineering, and SSFM, Inc.

According to Inos, the completion of the three projects affirms CUC's continuing efforts to seek ways to provide higher standards of service to the community. "This is our commitment to the accountable use of available federal funds for important infrastructure projects," he said.

Carl L. Goldstein, senior project manager of EPA-Pacific, was elated with CUC's progress. "The Sadog Tasi project will provide important and needed improvements at the wastewater treatment facility that will help improve water quality in the Saipan Lagoon, and will better protect marine life as well as public health. The Saipan Well Isolation project will make the water distribution system more efficient, put more water in the pipes, and thereby help increase the number of people getting 24-hour water on Saipan," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

# Senate poised to pass $15 travel promotion fee bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate is poised to pass a bill that seeks to charge passengers from non-U.S. destinations a new $15 "travel promotion fee."

At the same time, acting governor Eloy S. Inos urged the Legislature to pass such revenue-generating measure to help fund the Marianas Visitors Authority's tourism promotion programs.

Inos

"I emphasized the need for the Legislature to finally pass that tourism incentive fund. That will help MVA in [tourism promotion]," Inos said in an interview at the ribbon cutting for three Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects in Sadog Tasi yesterday morning.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs is recommending passage of the bill, which will be considered on the floor during Friday's session. He said the Senate is poised to pass the bill.

House Bill 17-179, House Substitute 1 passed the House in May, and has since been with the Senate.

This bill is an amendment to a Fitial administration-sponsored tourism incentive legislation that became law. The amendment bill contains the new $15 fee to be collected by airlines, besides expanding the target market for the tour agent incentive program.

Collections from this new fee will also be used to "recover costs incurred for enforcement of customs and quarantine laws."

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands also earlier asked the Senate and the House to pass the bill, but asks that fees collected should go directly to MVA instead of the general fund to help grow the tourism industry.

## Delayed payroll

Inos said that critical government employees will get their paychecks today but not the so-called non-critical employees because of cash shortage.

Those who will get paid on time include doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters, and corrections officers. Federally funded employees will also be paid on time.

As of yesterday, there was no telling if the administration will sign a local bill legalizing casino gambling on Saipan. The governor has until the first week of October to act on the bill, introduced by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan).

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# Brief extension of health emergency declaration eyed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos is eyeing a brief extension of the emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Health Center as a result of unfulfilled goals for the hospital.

The emergency declaration, in place since July 21 this year, is expiring this week.

"We will assess if it [the declaration] satisfied all the financial obligations and if not, then probably we will have to extend it for a couple of weeks—maybe two or three more weeks," he told *Saipan Tribune* during yesterday's ribbon-cutting ceremonies at the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Facility in Lower Base.

The emergency declaration allowed the suspension of procurement regulations and the reprogramming of funds for CHC's needs. Since July, $1.7 million has been reprogrammed to pay a portion of the debt the hospital owes its service providers, amounting to about $2.3 million.

In an interview last week with Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, he admitted that only a portion of the debt has been satisfied. He said an extension of the emergency declaration will be among the things he will discuss with Inos.

### Independent

Starting Oct. 1, the health department will officially operate as a corporation pursuant to Public Law 16-51. Inos said yesterday that the Executive Branch is finalizing its nominees for the seven-member Commonwealth Health Corp. board.

"We're close to finalizing the nominees to the board to be sent to the Senate in the very near future," he said.

Inos refused to disclose the names of the prospective appointees.

Based on law, the corporation will have a seven-member board of trustees of which three members shall be ex-officio voting members. One member shall be the chief executive officer, to be selected by the board, the second member will be the nursing director, and the third is for the medical director. Four of the members shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate—two will come from Saipan and one each from Rota and Tinian.

# Manglona OKs delay of sentencing of ex-BMV official, 3 co-defendants

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has granted the request of the U.S. Probation Office to delay the sentencing of a former officer at the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles and three co-defendants in the driver's license scam case.

Manglona ordered that the sentencing hearing for William A. Hocog be continued from Sept. 26 to Nov. 4, 2011.

Manglona allowed the U.S. Probation Office to submit the pre-sentence investigation report on Sept. 20, 2011.

A former DPS BMV supervisor, Hocog had already pleaded guilty to conspiracy to unlawfully produce and transfer of an identification document. His three co-defendants had also pleaded guilty.

The sentencing of Hocog's co-defendants, Hongmei Sun and Hui Qiang Yan, was also moved to Nov. 21, 2011, while Tahira Dolores Miah's sentencing hearing will be on Nov. 4, 2011.

The original sentencing hearing for all four was Sept. 26, 2011.

U.S. Probation Officer Margarita Wonenberg asked the court to continue the sentencing hearing to allow her to complete the pre-sentence investigation reports.

Mohammad Jahangir Miah is the only remaining defendant in the case who has yet to plead guilty. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

## VISAS

*From Page 1*

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce members and their representatives listen to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials during an outreach session on the final Commonwealth-only worker regulations, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday afternoon.

For example, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials—in response to questions from the audience—said that employers cannot concurrently file an H1B and a CW application for the same foreign workers.

USCIS district director David Gulick said concurrent filing of an H1B and a CW application is not allowed "because how would you as an employer sign the attestation that you didn't reasonably believe that this person is eligible for another classification?"

"If you think the person is an H1B, you cannot attest to the fact that you think they're not," Gulick said during question-and-answer at the outreach session at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

USCIS, in presenting "facts" about transitional worker classification, said CNMI nonresidents will not get "green cards" or U.S. citizenship.

It also said CW status is not automatic, and does not allow someone to travel to the United States.

Svetlana Maala, from Carrier Guam Inc., said the USCIS session was an "informative" one.

"I am encouraging people to attend so they can get more reliable information than the hearsays and rumors they hear from other people. I also heard rumors that turned out to be not true, after I listened to the presentation," she said after attending the USCIS session for the Chamber of Commerce.

Those with H1B, L1, or R1 applications, for example, whose applications have yet to be adjudicated by Nov. 27 and do not have a valid parole or status need to exit the CNMI and may only return when their petition is granted.

That's why employees need to make their parole current, among other things.

Gulick said that employers need to file an H1B application now. In fact, employers should have started filing H1B applications since 2009, USCIS officials said.

Processing of H1B application takes weeks and months. There is no premium processing for the CNMI.

Those with pending CW application, however, can remain in the CNMI beyond Nov. 27 while their CW application—filed by their employer—is in process.

"There will be a distinction. If the person you're filing an H1B for has a parole, I-94, and we already granted him until January 2012, they can remain while that H1B is pending and they're applying for a grant of status," Gulick said.

For others whose only presence in the CNMI is considered lawful based on a CNMI permit that's expiring on Nov. 27, they also have to exit the CNMI while waiting for their H1B application to be granted.

"Just like anybody else who has an expired status in the United States, they must depart the United States," Gulick said.

USCIS regional media manager Marie Therese Sebrechts, in an interview, said many employers in the CNMI have been working hard since 2009 to put in their H1B applications and have not waited for the last minute to file.

Some employers said filing a CW application seems to be much easier, besides being less expensive, than filing for an H1B application even though they think their employees could qualify for H1B visa.

Other employers said that, by filing a CW application, it will give them more time to prepare for an H1B filing for their employees.

But Sebrechts had this to say: "They can file for CW as long as the position is not eligible for an H1B. So you can't file for a CW because you waited too long to apply for another category under immigration law."

USCIS also held a session for members of the Korean community in the CNMI yesterday morning, before holding a session for Saipan Chamber of Commerce members.

USCIS also held its first public outreach session at 5pm yesterday at the American Memorial Park indoor auditorium.

The outreach sessions provide an overview of the final rule governing foreign workers in the CNMI and to answer questions from the audience.

Gulick said the public should "stay tuned" for further clarifications of some issues related to the CW rule in the coming days.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said USCIS was able to answer 30 of 33 questions prepared by Chamber members.

"But like everybody else, we need to further digest and clarify the answers, and get more information," he said.

Juan Sablan, director of Martha's Retail Store which has been in operation since 1972, said his questions were answered at the USCIS outreach session.

"All I wanted to know is how can I continue to have my workers. I have eight foreign workers—storekeepers, commercial cleaners and maintenance workers. These are positions that can easily be filled with U.S. workers. I have to advertise the positions. But I also like to maintain the workers I have now. They are reliable and honest," he said.

USCIS encourages people to visit the following websites for more information about the CW rule: www.uscis.gov/cnmi, www.uscis.gov/cw, and www.youtube.com/user/uscis. To speak to someone in person, visit www.uscis.gov and make an InfoPass appointment.

## BUDGET

*From Page 1*

year. Everybody went to this meeting with a goal of preventing a shutdown. Second, we didn't have to debate about work hour cuts. This year is about shifting money," the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), chair of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, separately said that the House and Senate have agreed to hold a back-to-back session on Friday to act on the budget bill.

Basa said the House and Senate could also hold a session on Saturday, if a budget bill is not ready by today or Friday.

He added that some of the figures they worked on yesterday and the day before might change a bit today, as they continue to tweak the spending measure.

As of yesterday, the 29 lawmakers' individual allocation will be $72,000 annually, not $71,000 as earlier reported. Senators had earlier proposed to zero out this allocation.

The House and Senate leadership account will now remain at $138,000 each, and no longer "zero" as senators wanted.

The joint panel agreed to maintain Rota's appropriation as the House had proposed, while Tinian will get an additional $112,000 to almost equal Rota's budget. The Senate earlier proposed an increase of $362,719 and $250,000 for Tinian and Rota, respectively.

These breakthroughs come with less than two weeks to go before the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Besides hashing out differences, the conference committee had to break for about an hour to give way to a House session yesterday afternoon.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos briefly joined the conferees yesterday afternoon to clarify some funding issues.

In an interview hours earlier, Inos said even if the government could terminate the annual $200,000 land lease for the La Fiesta property, "that doesn't necessarily get us out of the financial obligation for the remaining rent."

Inos said the administration does not recommend changing the annual lease, and will pursue revitalizing the former La Fiesta Mall for it to become a tourist attraction again.

He said the progress made by the conference committee gives the impression that a shutdown is no longer a possibility.

Without a budget passed and signed by Sept. 30, the government will have to shut down starting Oct. 1 and will remain so until a budget is passed.

Besides Basa and Taimanao, who are the official spokespersons for the conference committee, the other members are Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep. Sylvester Iguel.

## FUND

*From Page 1*

law. We did not form their opinion for them," Alepuyo added.

Dotts is counsel for retirees Mariano Taitano, Roman F. Tudela, and Patricia Guerrero, who have opposed the Fund's request for a temporary restraining order to stop the enforcement of P.L. 17-51, also known as the Derivative Beneficiaries Act.

The Act allows Fund beneficiaries to sue on behalf of the pension program if the board refuses to bring such action.

Dotts told *Saipan Tribune* that his clients feel "very strongly" that P.L. 17-51 is constitutional.

In any event, Dotts said, the Fund is going to be shrinking very rapidly and will completely be gone in just 36 months so at this point it is more important to try to recover from those who are in part responsible for the destruction of the Fund than to keep all the money managers and consultants that were staffing the Fund when the Fund was more sound.

The lawyer also pointed out that the Fund showed no evidence of any effort to replace those money managers who had quit.

"There was evidence that 70 money managers responded to the Fund's last RFP [request for proposals] so there is every reason to believe that those departing can be replaced," he added.

Dotts said the parties in the TRO matter met for 90 minutes with Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo on Tuesday afternoon but reached no resolution.

Govendo directed the parties to file proposed orders on Sept. 27, 2011, and to keep trying to reach a compromise in the meantime.

Dotts said he will be meeting with the Fund's attorneys. He said if the parties cannot work something out, Govendo will make a decision about the TRO issue the week of Oct. 3, 2011.

The Fund questions the Act's constitutionality and asserts that the TRO will ensure that assets are invested to maximize the length of time that their benefit payments will continue.

# Karidat's Guma' Esperansa marks 10-year milestone

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Yesterday marked the 10th year of operation of Guma' Esperansa or "House of Hope," the only shelter in the CNMI for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking and their children.

Shelter manager Lauri B. Ogumoro recounted how the Guma' Esperansa facility was created through a federal grant administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and appropriations from the Legislature.

Ogumoro was then a part of the board of directors of Karidat Social Services, the nonprofit organization approached by former NMHC executive director Marylou S. Ada to operate Guma' Esperansa.

What started as a place of safety run by only three staff and funded by one grant has since then flourished into a full-scale shelter operated by a 13-member team of workers and subsidized by eight various federal grants, Ogumoro said.

"Karidat Social Services took on the challenge of operating Guma' Esperansa and has never looked back," she added.

## Humble beginnings

Ogumoro disclosed that Guma' Esperansa opened up for services on Sept. 21, 2001, initially to serve victims of domestic violence.

"Now, we also serve survivors of sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking," said Ogumoro. "We serve men, women, and their children and we have a whole range of services for them."

These services, Ogumoro said, include counseling and the recently funded transitional housing program, which provides housing support to victims for up to 24 months to help them become independent and live violence-free lives.

Ogumoro said the most important service they provide is giving these victims the chance to get a good night sleep to help them make a better decision for themselves and their children.

"A lot of times, they can't sleep because of the abuse and the violence and their fear. When they know they're safe, they can make a better decision. We help people understand their options, what's available in the community, and the different things they need to move on with their lives," she explained.

Ogumoro noted that some of the victims choose to go back home so they try to help them with "safety planning" or how they can be safe even if they're back in their homes.

"We're not about breaking up families," she emphasized. "We want people to understand that you can't live with someone when they're hurting you."

According to Ogumoro, the challenges of operating a 24/7 shelter for women, children, and some men are outweighed by the joy of empowering the victims to live violence-free lives. "While the work of Guma' Esperansa is never easy, it is intensely gratifying."

Ten years since the shelter was created, Ogumoro said they have served over a thousand women and men, excluding their children. At present, they are serving eight women and 11 children at the shelter and some 80 people in the community.

"We hope that we've lived up to our name as the House of Hope," said Ogumoro.

## Support network

Ogumoro said that the public has become more aware and informed about Guma' Esperansa and the valuable work it does for victims of violence.

"It's known to the community as a place where you can at least go and try to figure out what you want to do and what's your next step. That's important," she said.

She attributes this to the help of the community. "We're thankful for the community for having supported us and understanding the value of a place for victims of violence. We can't do it without the community. There are no words but to say that we're just blessed."

She said no specific plan has been made to mark House of Hope's 10-year milestone.

"Because we're so busy, we haven't had time to really come up with a celebration other than just honoring ourselves and the work we do. We're thankful for having a safe place for victims to come," she said.

Guma' Esperansa will soon start a 40-hour sexual assault services program training for 30 to 40 volunteers so they would know how to help sexual assault survivors who come to them to seek help.

Ogumoro urged the public to refer victims of violence to Guma' Esperansa's hotline number, 234-5100.

# Almost $2K worth of crafts sold so far at Pacifica exhibit

The monthlong Cultural Heritage & Arts Pacifica Exhibit at the Lobby Function Room of Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan has so far sold $1,939 worth of artwork by local artists.

Arts coordinator Parker Y. Yobei said that popular items include jewelry, storyboards, paintings, and photos by 23 traditional and visual artists.

"This exhibit aims to provide a venue where people can view both the traditional and modern art of our talented local artists," he said.

Of all the works of arts on display at the exhibit, Yobei disclosed that the shell jewelry made by artists Rodney Camacho and Martin Castro are the most saleable.

"We're excited for the artists. It feels good having been able to sell some of their stuff. I know they're happy when their works are bought," Yobei told *Saipan Tribune*.

Yobei noted that the exhibit is drawing more support from tourists than residents.

"Still, we're glad that support is coming in for our artists," he said. "We're always trying to find ways to help our brilliant artists with the help of sponsors like the Hyatt Regency hotel, which provided us a venue for our exhibit." ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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# Zoning: No decision yet on new housing development project

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zoning Office and board officials insist that they have not decided yet on the conditional use permit application of Blue Water Homes LLC for its affordable housing project, dismissing rumors that the project is already a done deal despite strong opposition from landowners and their heirs where the project will be built.

Board chair Diego Blanco and acting zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro separately confirmed this, saying the board is still awaiting the recommendation of the zoning staff.

"No decision has been made by the Zoning board to date. Our office has not yet made any recommendations as well," Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune*.

Blanco said via email that board members will convene to hear the zoning staff's recommendation, which will serve as the basis for the board's decision to approve or deny the application.

"The board will take all concerns into consideration during their review process," he added.

Blue Water Homes is the second affordable housing project that applied for and was approved under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The $30-million project involves the construction of 80 two-, three-, and four-bedroom units in a 98-foot building in Chalan Piao. Just like Sandy Beach Homes, it will feature solar water heaters and Energy Star-rated appliances.

## Facebook group

A group of 16 landowners and heirs, who belong to the Tamat-Cabrera clan, is opposed to the project, saying it does not take into account the social impacts of such a massive development.

In letters addressed to the Zoning Office, landowner John White, who owns Lot 458-NEW-7, said their group supports "controlled development" so as not to jeopardize the beauty of Tamat Beach.

Christopher Attao Concepcion, heir to Lot 458-NEW-4, said the "Save Tamat Beach" Facebook group he and Mona Celia R. Mercado created is gaining more support.

"Save Tamat Beach (beach area between Hopwood Jr. High and Chalan Kanoa Beach Club) is created to help our family and friends who both own property and those who enjoy the family beach to be aware that a development company wants to build Blue Water Homes there," the group's description partially reads.

As of 1pm yesterday, 953 Facebook users have already joined the group. Concepcion believes that the growing number of supporters signifies "awareness among the public that we should be careful with our lands, especially during these tough economic times where people are too easily tempted to make a quick buck by leasing/selling their property."

According to Mercado, heir to Lots 458-NEW-5 and 6, developers should look into developing abandoned buildings that plague the island.

"We must begin now to stand up and let our voices be heard before our island becomes an overdeveloped, concrete infested, and economically challenged society. Let's work on getting the abandoned and vacant buildings leased or converted into housing. Let's keep our island clean and preserve our natural resources," she said in an email response.

## Not properly designed

Michael S. Sablan of Blue Water Homes LLC said that they've already looked into the option of developing abandoned buildings "but they are not designed properly to accommodate family residences."

"While many have expressed concerns on the project, many are also in support of it. We are overwhelmed by the public support at the zoning public hearing and outside the public hearing ," he said.

Since the project is still in the concept phase, Sablan said they welcome these concerns during public hearings "where we can weigh the project against the community's concerns."

He said the rescheduling of the public hearing for their permit application with the Coastal Resources Management has yet to be announced.

He dismissed concerns about the Blue Water Homes project "encroaching on public beach access," saying that the development will be done in the area around the beach and not on the beach. "We empathize with the neighbors…and we will make sure to follow all laws and regulations pertinent to this development," added Sablan.

Ogumoro said there is "no definite information yet" whether the Blue Water Homes application will be on the agenda for the next board meeting on Oct. 6.

"Anyone in general is welcome to express their concerns on the public comments part of our board meetings," she added.

# Contractor says he gave $3,000 to Reksid as a loan, not a bribe

## » Closing arguments, deliberations today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owner of a hazardous material company that obtained the unexploded ordnance cleanup contract with the Department of Public Lands testified yesterday in the ongoing jury trial of former DPL special assistant to the secretary Franz B. Reksid.

The closing arguments and jury deliberations are expected to begin today, Thursday, after the prosecution and the defense rested their cases yesterday.

Attorney Mark Hanson, counsel for Reksid, called to the stand two witnesses: John Scott, president of All-Hazard Management Professionals Inc. (AMPRO Inc.) and Jim Callier, special assistant to the Division of Environmental Quality director.

Scott testified that in February 2009 he gave $3,000 to Reksid, but that it was a personal loan and had nothing to do with AMPRO's cleanup contract.

"I saw it as a short term loan. Kind of personal help," said Scott, referring to the money after Reksid sought assistance after his brother passed away. "I saw no relationship of the loan with the project."

Scott said he did not get expedited payments from the project as a result of providing the loan to Reksid.

During cross-examination by assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, Scott admitted that he was not repaid for the loan.

Scott said that when he met with Reksid after a week, he expected to get paid but, instead, Reksid asked to borrow more money from him.

Scott said that when Reksid explained to him that he needs to send the money to Nigeria, he saw it was a scam so he refused to loan him more money.

"I explained to him it's a scam," the businessman said.

Scott, however, agreed with O'Malley that he didn't know what Reksid was doing "behind the scenes" in relation to the project.

According to court documents, Reksid borrowed over $300,000 from friends, associates, and relatives and wired part of the money to Ivory Coast and Nigeria.

The 70-year-old Reksid is on trial on one count of bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

The indictment alleged that Reksid solicited $3,000 bribe from an owner of a business company seeking to obtain the unexploded ordnance cleanup contract with DPL.

EPA Brownsfield grants funded the contract.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Michael A. Ponsor excused the jurors yesterday shortly before noon and asked them to return today, Thursday, at 9am for the closing arguments.

# Childhood Obesity Awareness Event

## Get Out and Play!

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**DATE**
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**TIME**
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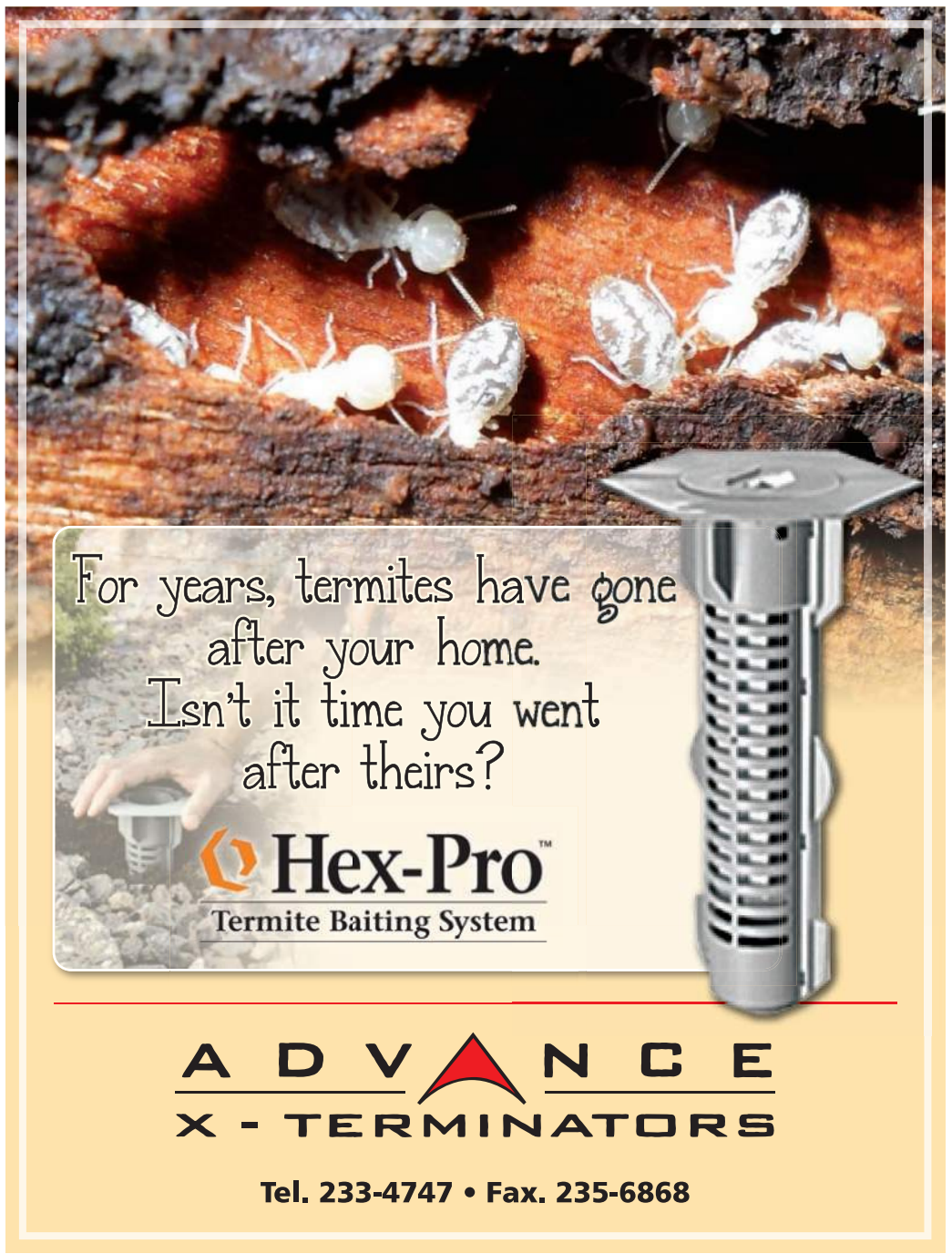
## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Golf academy to donate trash collectors

International Golf Academy & Preparatory School is donating several aluminum trash collectors to Beautify CNMI! The turnover ceremony is set today, Sept. 22, 4:30pm at the academy's offices at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Beautify CNMI! officials John O. Gonzales and Laurie Peterka will receive the donation from the academy's managing director/headmaster, Gary A. Liddle. ***(PR)***

### Moving Planet set this Saturday

The Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resource Management Office, and the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance will be hosting an event called Moving Planet on Saturday, Sept. 24, from the Garapan Fishing Basin to American Memorial Park. That portion of Beach Road will be closed for 30 minutes so people could bike, skate, or walk. Once participants complete their route, there will be information booths and presentations on coral bleaching and the effects carbon emissions have on the atmosphere available. Free Moving Planet T-shirts and trees will be given to the first 350 participants that register. ***(PR)***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### Ada Gym weight room to reopen

The Division of Sports and Recreation under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has announced the reopening of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium weight room this Monday, Sept. 26. The facility will be open from 8:30am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, on non-austerity week and from 8:30am to 8pm Monday to Thursday on austerity week. For any question or concerns, call the gym at 664-2508. ***(PR)***

### JA volunteer training

There will be a Junior Achievement volunteer training on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 9am to 12pm at Kagman High School. The training will be facilitated by JA Guam executive director Beth Lizama. For more information, email Frances Ulloa at frances.ulloa@cnmipss.org or Galvin Deleon Guerrero at galvin@itecnmi.com. ***(PR)***

### Three free business workshops

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, presents three free workshops:

- How to start a business: Sept. 27, 9am to 11am
- How to write a business plan: Sept. 28, 9am to 11am
- How to read a financial statement: Sept. 29, 9am to 11am

The workshops will be held at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the first floor of the Famila Building in Garapan. Deadline for pre-registration is 12:pm, Sept. 26, 2011. For more information contact Ralph Yumul at 664-3018. ***(PR)***

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## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### Sept. 22, 1999

#### Scholarship program gets $1 million

Legislators will boost funding for the government scholarship program by about $1 million to try to deal with anticipated deficit that threatens to cut substantial financial assistance to off-island students as well as those attending the Northern Marianas College. Members of the House Ways and Means have decided to slash proposed appropriation for the purchase of new computer hardware to realign funds to the Scholarship's Office, according to its chair Rep. Karl T. Reyes. He said the committee has identified these money as possible source for much-needed funding for financial aid provided to local students, adding that at least a million dollars is expected to be generated from such move.

#### Inos' expending power over CIP funds OK'd

Acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan signed new three laws yesterday, including a measure granting expenditure authority to Commissioner of Education, Rita H. Inos, over close to $30 million in fresh funding for capital improvement projects of the Public School System. The two other laws, meanwhile, amend the statute that created the Board of Professional Licensing as well as the Fire Safety Code which the Legislature enacted recently. In Public Law 11-100 concerning the PSS funds, Sablan said giving spending power to Inos would avoid jeopardizing construction of the infrastructure projects that were part of an initial appropriation bill he approved last month.

### Sept. 22, 2000

#### Water desalination project pushed

The chair of the Senate public utilities committee has expressed support again for the much-delayed water desalination project on Saipan, which the government plans to build to ease chronic water shortages in several areas on the island. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said he prefers this technology than the reverse osmosis plant that is now being considered by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Noting that residents tend to associate wastewater as dirty, he maintained it would cost the government more money to educate them when that type of technology is adopted here rather than water desalination. Reverse osmosis turns liquid waste or brackish water into potable water fit for consumption, while desalination makes use of the ocean to process them into tap water.

#### DDC joins campaign to boost funding for special education

The Governor's Developmental with Disabilities Council is spearheading a drive to collect 500 signatures in support of a nationwide petition to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The council is currently routing the petition in various public and private agencies, hoping to gather more signatures that could push President Clinton and the U.S. Congress to increase the current IDEA federal funding from 13 to 40 percent. According to the National Campaign to Fully Fund the IDEA group, the 13 percent federal share falls far short of the funds needed to assist states and territories in providing special education and related services to students with disabilities.

### Sept. 22, 2003

#### Bill eyes exemption to moratorium law

The House of Representatives has passed a bill amending the moratorium law to enable persons with disabilities to hire nonresident workers as full-time house workers or chauffeurs. The lower chamber passed Friday House Bill 13-333, recognizing that lifting the moratorium on the hiring of new nonresident workers would have minimal impact on the local employment picture as there are few resident workers who are interested in applying for these positions. The bill, introduced by Rep. Herman T. Palacios, is an amendatory measure to the moratorium law, Public Law 11-6, and the Omnibus Labor and Business Reform statute, Public Law 12-11.

#### Timelier release of rebates, refunds eyed

A bill that would enable CNMI taxpayers to expect a more timely release of their refund and rebate checks now goes to the Senate for similar passage after the lower chamber passed the measure in Friday's session. The House of Representatives voted to pass House Bill 13-328, which would create a special account for income tax withheld, with the restriction that the money can only be used to disburse rebate and refund payments.

# Limtiaco: DOJ initiatives seek to create safer communities

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In line with its priorities and mission, the Department of Justice has launched several initiatives that aim to improve communities, according to U.S. Attorney for Guam and CNMI Alicia Limtiaco.

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Tuesday, Limtiaco said that one of these initiatives is the Diverse Communities Outreach Initiative, created in response to concerns and complaints about profiling, discrimination, and unfair treatment following the 9/11 events.

"The initiative calls in all of our faith-based community leadership as well as our consulates to engage in a round-table discussion with us to do a law enforcement relationship with these various organizations as well as to dialogue some of the issues," she said.

The Project Safe Neighborhoods is another initiative, created to address youth violence, gang violence, gun violence, bullying and cyberbullying, sexting, child sexual exploitation and technology related crimes.

Since 2001, the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative has committed about $2 billion to its overall mission for projects such as distribution of gun lock safety kits, development and promotion of community outreach, and supporting gun and gang violence reduction strategies, Limtiaco said.

The Gang Resistance and Education Training or GREAT Program, on the other hand, addresses delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership. It is an officer-instructed, school-based curriculum that teaches youth life-skills competencies, violence-prevention and conflict-resolution techniques, decision-making, and problem-solving skills.

The program has graduated 1,946 children since its inception in October 2008, with another 528 children that graduated from June 2010 up to the present.

"We've been very, very successful with this particular initiative. It is one that is currently happening in Guam. We're hopeful to bring it here to the NMI but again, it involves community effort and our school system actively involved," she said.

CLARISSA DAVID
U.S. Attorney for Guam and CNMI Alicia Limtiaco speaks at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Tuesday.

Project Safe Childhood is another initiative launched in 2006 that aims to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children. It is implemented through partnerships between federal law enforcers and advocacy organizations.

The Red Ribbon Campaign, meanwhile, aims to reduce demand for drugs through prevention and education programs while the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Initiative involves federal and local law enforcers coming together to work on deconfliction issues as a result in the rise of law enforcement fatalities in the country in the last few years.

Limtiaco said that several trainings and outreach activities have already been conducted in Guam and the CNMI in support of these initiatives.

## Unique

Limtiaco said that her position is the only one across the nation that supervises two judicial districts.

"There are actually 94 U.S. Attorneys but we have just one position that oversees two districts," Limtiaco said.

Each U.S. Attorney is appointed by, and serve at the discretion of, the U.S. President, with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to our Daddy, Jacob Warwick! We wish you a day, filled with love, joy, care and fun. We love you! Greetings come from Leianna Jean and Adam William.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy 18th birthday to Raquela Liep Pangelinan! Enjoy your special day, be safe, may you have many more to come, and we love you! Greetings come from the Bolis-Sablans, Bolis-Aguons, Pangelinans, friends, and family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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# Opinion

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**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
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EDITORIAL

## A new economy can't be built on low-end jobs

It should come as no surprise to anyone living in the real world that household incomes fell again last year in the United States, leaving millions more individuals and families struggling that much harder to pay their bills and meet day-to-day expenses.

Median annual household income slipped another 2.3 percent from 2009 to 2010, according to the latest updates from the U.S. Census Bureau, affirming the particularly tenacious after-effects of the recession that began in 2007. Overall, household incomes have fallen from $53,000 before the recession to $49,400 last year, even though the recession officially ended in the summer of 2009.

Decreasing income has meant increasing poverty. In 2010, 46.2 million of the 306 million people in the richest nation in the history of civilization lived in poverty. That was 2.6 million more than the previous year.

Even more troubling are the undeniable indications of a disappearing American middle class. Economic analysts have noted that so-called middle-skilled jobs, both blue collar and white collar, took a disproportionately large hit between 2007 and 2009.

"Almost one of every 12 white-collar jobs in sales, administrative support and non-managerial office work vanished in the first two years of the recession," journalist Don Peck wrote in a lengthy article in this month's issue of The Atlantic. "One of every six blue-collar jobs in production, craft, repair and machine operation did the same."

The data suggest that workers who have high school diplomas but not college degrees are particularly vulnerable—especially men.

The jarring disturbances of the recent recession have accelerated these developments, but they didn't create the underlying forces.

Allowing for erosion during periodic recessions, median household income in the United States is essentially the same as it was 45 years ago.

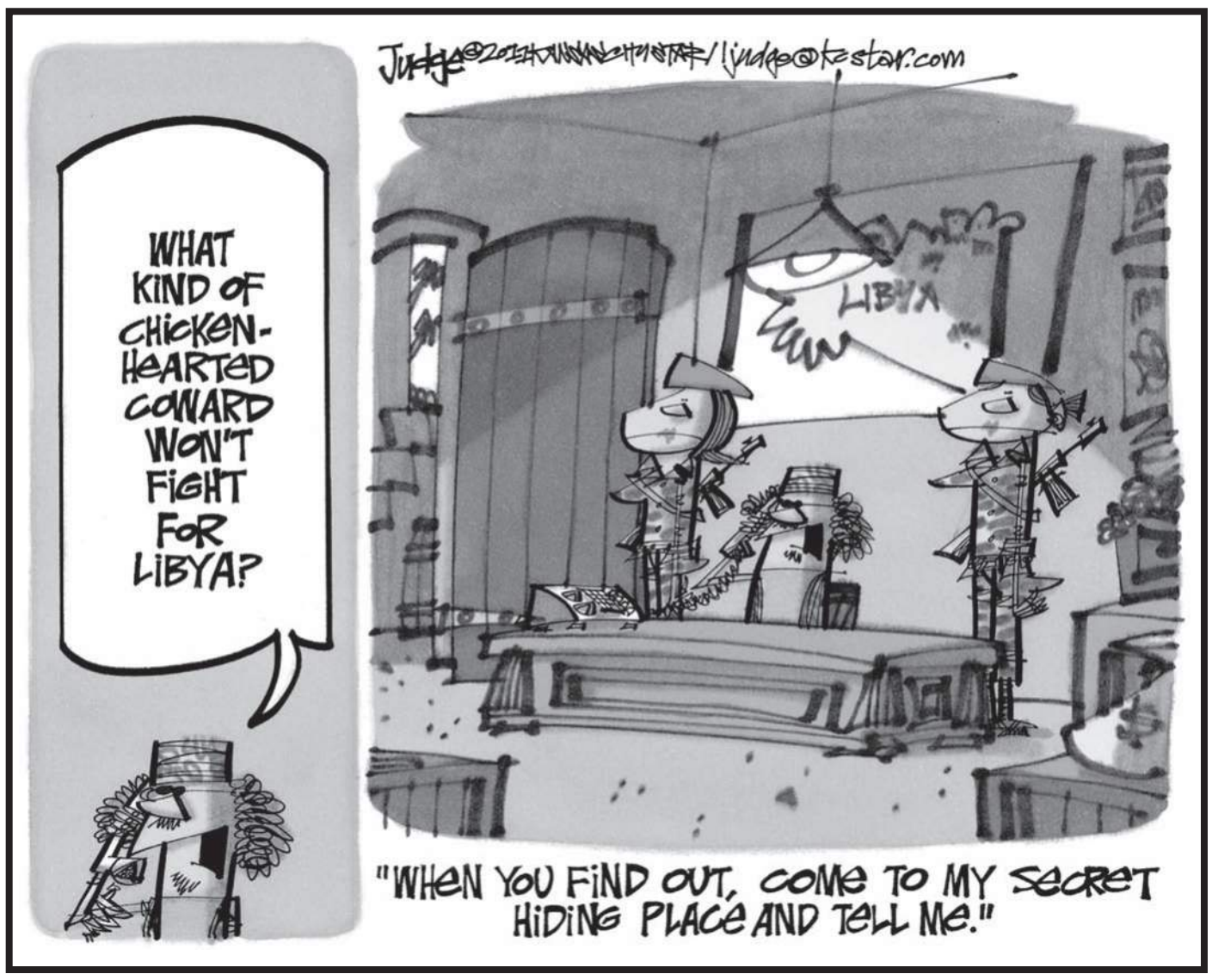
Overall, there is little evidence today of the American ideal that each generation improves its financial standing over that of the previous generation while laying the groundwork for continuing improvement by the generation that comes next.

There is abundant evidence, on the other hand, that income and wealth in America have become more and more concentrated in the hands of the country's upper economic strata. Among the 34 nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United States ranks fourth from the bottom in income inequality, surpassed only by Turkey, Mexico and Chile. And U.S. inequality has been growing steadily since 1984, according to the OECD's tracking data.

The U.S. economy has suffered over the last several decades from the loss of manufacturing facilities, the globalization of goods and labor and technological advances that affect more and more kinds of work. There's no reason to believe these trends will reverse.

Indeed, the trends are expected to broaden, undermining the economic well being of better-educated, more highly

*See A NEW on Next Page*


WHAT KIND OF CHICKEN-HEARTED COWARD WON'T FIGHT FOR LIBYA?
LIBYA
"WHEN YOU FIND OUT, COME TO MY SECRET HIDING PLACE AND TELL ME."

## Hard times have spawned great art—but not these hard times

By JAIME O'NEILL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Economists and politicians told us that the recession was over, though some of them now worry about it taking a double dip. For those of us living farther from the ledger sheets and closer to the reality of what's happening in our towns and on our streets, this has been and remains a depression. It's hard to make the word stick, however, because we haven't developed the iconography yet. We don't have bread lines, dance marathons, guys selling apples on street corners or men jumping from high buildings because they've been wiped out in the stock market.

The pain and suffering has only been superficially covered by the news media, but it has surely not been addressed by our artists. In the 1930s, John Steinbeck chronicled the Depression as it played out in the lives of the Joads, his fictional Okies. He invented those memorable characters to vivify all the abstractions of the policymakers and to give literary voice to the suffering so many nonfictional Americans were experiencing.

There were a raft of other artists who also were telling the tale, making people see, hear and feel the pain as only the arts can do. There was Dorothea Lange taking photos and Woody Guthrie writing songs. Hollywood was doing its part too, and not only with a movie version of Steinbeck's novel. Unlike current audiences, moviegoers in the '30s were persistently reminded by what was on the screen of what awaited them when they resumed their lives outside the theater. Even "King Kong," generally conceded to be pioneering escapist fare, begins with Fay Wray in a bread line.

In our own times, when Iraq and Afghanistan war vets are suffering double-digit rates of unemployment, you can't find much mention of those veterans and their struggles in our movies. But, in 1932, "I Am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang" gave cinematic life to the kind of men who would march on Washington as part of the Bonus Army, a legion of out-of-work World War I vets who squatted in the nation's capital to bring attention to their plight—an appeal that was ultimately met not with aid but with violence.

Even musicals like "Gold Diggers of 1933" (which gave us the song "We're in the Money") is structured around the story of war heroes who were shamed by the need to seek inadequate public assistance. There also were more overtly political films in 1933, movies like "Wild Boys of the Road," a gritty portrayal of unemployed young men jumping freights to find work.

A few recent indie films have provided glimpses of what the Joads might look like in this new century—"Winter's Bone" comes most forcefully to mind—but mostly the moviemakers are far removed, in their own lives and in their products, from what the majority of Americans are living through now.

Musical artists too are looking the other way. What hit song of the last three years gives voice to our times in the way "Brother Can You Spare a Dime?" gave voice to the 1930s? Where are the songs that evoke images of vacancies in the shopping malls, people driven from their foreclosed homes and couples whose marriages are shattered by the frustrations of their hardships?

A long time ago, during an early peace march through San Francisco, I remember a young guy in an apartment a couple of floors above the street putting a speaker in his window and blasting Bob Dylan singing "The Times They Are A-Changin' " to the protesters marching by. The feeling of support and solidarity that music contributed on that day was palpable, and it came at a time when public sentiment had not yet turned against the Vietnam War.

Years later, in a none-too-brave new world, I attended a Dylan concert in the months following 9/11. The "senators and congressmen" Dylan had once referenced in his old song were then talking about taking us to war in Iraq. I hoped on that night that the protege of Woody Guthrie would say a word or two about the times we were living in. But he said nothing, having long since decided he didn't want to be an oracle, didn't want to speak except through his songs. For many fans, it would have been balm to us had Dylan used even the slimmest portion of his art to provide the sense of solace he'd given so many dissenters long ago.

A few months after seeing Dylan, I saw Jerry Seinfeld. It was a few weeks after the shoe bomber had attempted to blow up an airplane. No one goes to see Seinfeld for political commentary, but he made a joke about the shoe bomber, and it was therapeutic, allowing us to laugh at the boogeyman. It was art employed in the interest of sanity. It's been said that humor is our shield against insanity. So far, we've mostly been crazy this century, and there hasn't been much shielding us from it. The comedians, such as Jon Stewart, Will Durst and Bill Maher, have filled the vacuum the other arts have abandoned.

As much as anything, the arts define the times, sketching a portrait of a moment in the life of the nation and the world, marking a period in ways it comes to be viewed by people who live through it and by people who come after. But the tale of our times is mostly being told by our unwillingness to tell it.

---

*Jaime O'Neill is a writer in Northern California and wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

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# Setting the stage for a great performance

**By RIK VILLEGAS**
*Special to the* Tribune

*Rik coaches businesses through their most challenging transition points to develop consistently profitable businesses that operate without them. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.*

In a dramatic play, the director ensures that all the actors know their roles and that all the parts are working well for the desired outcome of the production. If meticulous care is taken to set the stage, the end result will be realized. Similar to a play production, all companies, firms, businesses, or organizations have three common elements: 1) A specific purpose, 2) that is accomplished by people, and 3) using a deliberate structure.

The alignment and interrelationship among your purpose, people, and structure distinguishes you from the competition, and can make the difference between your organization operating as a well-oiled, lean machine that performs as planned, or a squeaky rust-bucket that falls apart at each challenge. Let me share an example of how these three elements can work together to create greater results.

When Mobil launched the Smiles customer rewards program in Guam several years ago, they employed an international advertising firm to help with the promotion. Even though they'd spent millions developing the software and point-of-sales system that would integrate the program with other stations, its success depended on the ability to get people to sign up for the program and start using it regularly.

The promotion included full-page ads in the local paper, radio advertising, and other media support that the ad agency could fulfill well. However, the advertising firm failed to adequately set the stage for people to actually perform by signing customers up for the program at the service stations. People were hired to greet the customers and encourage them to complete the forms during their massive media promotion, but the results were less than stellar, considering the population and amount of money spent to create public awareness.

So when Mobil decided to launch the Smiles program on Saipan, they didn't want to use the same company to organize the effort to recruit and train the people who would greet and sign up customers. My company had done some work for Mobil in the past and I was approached about heading up the effort locally. I was too busy with some other commitments, so declined their first offer, but subsequently decided to work with them after negotiating the terms and determining what should be done to improve the sign-up rate.

The first step was to determine the purpose of the promotion and what metrics would be used to measure success. In your business, do your employees know the purpose and goals that need to be achieved? Do you have a shared vision of what success will look like when it's achieved?

About 25 people were needed to adequately man the service stations, but instead of just hiring warm bodies, we had criteria that helped us determine who we were looking for. After interviewing prospects we chose our candidates and then put them through a half-day training session to ensure they understood the purpose and the importance of their role to display the proper attitude when interacting with customers.

We structured the group to arrive at a specific time and sign in with the attendant on duty each morning. I also made the rounds at each station in the morning to make sure at least two people were at each station. Individuals rode in the car with me each morning so they could step in if someone didn't show up for work that day. It was grueling work standing all day for 12 hours, but I was pleasantly surprised to find that almost everyone showed up for work on time and only two people couldn't work the entire time, due to legitimate reasons.

There was also an incentive to not miss a day. Mobil was going to pay them a specific rate per hour for the 100 hours they would be working, but I lessened it by $1 and gave a $100 bonus if they weren't late nor missed a day of work. Only one missed a day during the entire promotion because of a funeral.

We also had a mystery shopper that would go around to the stations periodically and rate the performance of each worker to ensure that the standards we set during training were being met. One of the talented workers wrote a song about the promotion, and I paid for her to go into a professional studio to record it.

When the event was over, we invited all of the workers to a breakfast where we praised them for what they accomplished, played the song written by one of the workers, gave certificates of their involvement and paid them for their fantastic work. Several told us they had fun and asked if they could participate in future promotions.

Even though Guam has twice the number of gas stations and almost three times the population of Saipan, we were able to sign up significantly more Smiles card holders in the same promotional period. The success of the program was based on setting up a well-defined program, training the individuals, having consistent follow-through, and having closure at the end so people felt good about their role and involvement.

Does your business have a deliberate structure that effectively utilizes people to achieve a clearly defined purpose? If your employees aren't performing at a level that would cause a standing ovation, you might want to step in as the director and set the stage so that everyone understands the overall purpose and their specific role to cause the audience to return for future performances.

# America's costly war machine

**By LINDA J. BILMES AND JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ**
Los Angeles Times

*Linda J. Bilmes is a faculty member at Harvard University. Joseph E. Stiglitz is a professor at Columbia University and the recipient of the Nobel Prize in economics. They are co-authors of* The Three Trillion Dollar War: The True Cost of the Iraq Conflict. *They wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Ten years into the war on terror, the U.S. has largely succeeded in its attempts to destabilize al-Qaida and eliminate its leaders. But the cost has been enormous, and our decisions about how to finance it have profoundly damaged the U.S. economy.

Many of these costs were unnecessary. We chose to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan with a small, all-volunteer force, and we supplemented the military presence with a heavy reliance on civilian contractors. These decisions not only placed enormous strain on the troops but dramatically pushed up costs. Recent congressional investigations have shown that roughly 1 of every 4 dollars spent on wartime contracting was wasted or misspent.

To date, the United States has spent more than $2.5 trillion on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Pentagon spending spree that accompanied it and a battery of new homeland security measures instituted after Sept. 11.

How have we paid for this? Entirely through borrowing. Spending on the wars and on added security at home has accounted for more than one-quarter of the total increase in U.S. government debt since 2001. And not only did we fail to pay as we went for the wars, the George W. Bush administration also successfully pushed to cut taxes in 2001 and again in 2003, which added further to the debt. This toxic combination of lower revenues and higher spending has brought the country to its current political stalemate.

There is only one other time in U.S. history that a war was financed entirely through borrowing, without raising taxes: when the Colonies borrowed from France during the Revolutionary War.

Even if we were to leave Afghanistan and Iraq tomorrow, our war debt would continue to rise for decades. Future bills will include such things as caring for military veterans, replacing military equipment, rebuilding the armed forces and paying interest on all the money we have borrowed. And these costs won't be insignificant.

History has shown that the cost of caring for military veterans peaks decades after a conflict. Already, half of the returning troops have been treated in Veterans Administration medical centers, and more than 600,000 have qualified to receive disability compensation. At this point, the bill for future medical and disability benefits is estimated at $600 billion to $900 billion, but the number will almost surely grow as hundreds of thousands of troops still deployed abroad return home.

And it isn't just in some theoretical future that the wars will affect the nation's economy: They already have. The conditions that precipitated the financial crisis in 2008 were shaped in part by the war on terror. The invasion of Iraq and the resulting instability in the Persian Gulf were among the factors that pushed oil prices up from about $30 a barrel in 2003 to historic highs five years later, peaking at $140 a barrel in current dollars in 2008. Higher oil prices threatened to depress U.S. economic activity, prompting the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates and loosen regulations. These policies were major contributors to the housing bubble and the financial collapse that followed.

Now, the war's huge deficits are shaping the economic debate, and they could keep Congress from enacting another round of needed stimulus spending to help the country climb out of its economic malaise. Many of these war debts are likely to continue to compromise America's investments in its future for decades.

For years, the public failed to adequately question how it was possible that we could spend and borrow so freely, with so few consequences. But now the painful legacy of these decisions has become clear. Throughout the past decade, Congress routinely approved huge "emergency" appropriations to pay for the wars. This process preempted the usual scrutiny and debate that accompanies large spending bills. In part, this is because the U.S. lacks the basic accounting tools necessary for informed debate. Our future debts from the war are not listed anywhere in the federal government's budget. We don't even know for certain where the money has been spent. The Pentagon hasn't produced a clean financial audit in the 20 years since government auditing began, nor has it developed an accounting framework that would allow an assessment of the future costs of current decisions. This has almost certainly increased the overall cost of the war.

Our response to Sept. 11 has weakened both the current economy and our future economic prospects. And that legacy of economic weakness—combined with the erosion of the credibility of our military power and of our "soft power"—has undermined, rather than strengthened, our national security.

Nearly 10 years into the Afghanistan war, the violence in that country shows little sign of abating. August was the deadliest month of the war yet for U.S. troops, and there were also multiple attacks on Afghan security forces, government officials and civilians. The surge in violence comes as NATO is drawing down and handing over security control to national forces. But tens of thousands of U.S. military personnel are scheduled to remain in Afghanistan through the end of 2014.

The costs of fighting the war on terror have already been far higher than they needed to be. The U.S. should not take on even greater war debt without understanding the true costs of continuing down that path.

## A NEW

*From Page 10*

skilled middle-class professionals. The only people likely to be insulated from the adverse effects of these dislocating changes are those who profit from them: those at the uppermost reaches of the income and wealth scales.

Congress and the president, of course, face a much more immediate challenge: figuring out how to stimulate the economy quickly while helping struggling individuals and families survive in the short term.

As difficult as that will be, given our apparent political paralysis, the far greater challenge is the long-term revitalization and fundamental restructuring of the American economy.

A sound economy cannot be built on a foundation of sub-minimum and minimum-wage jobs. It must include a healthy middle class with a legitimate stake in the future, people rewarded for their honest, hard work and skills with true opportunities for upward mobility.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. |
| ▲86° ▼75° | ▲86° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° |

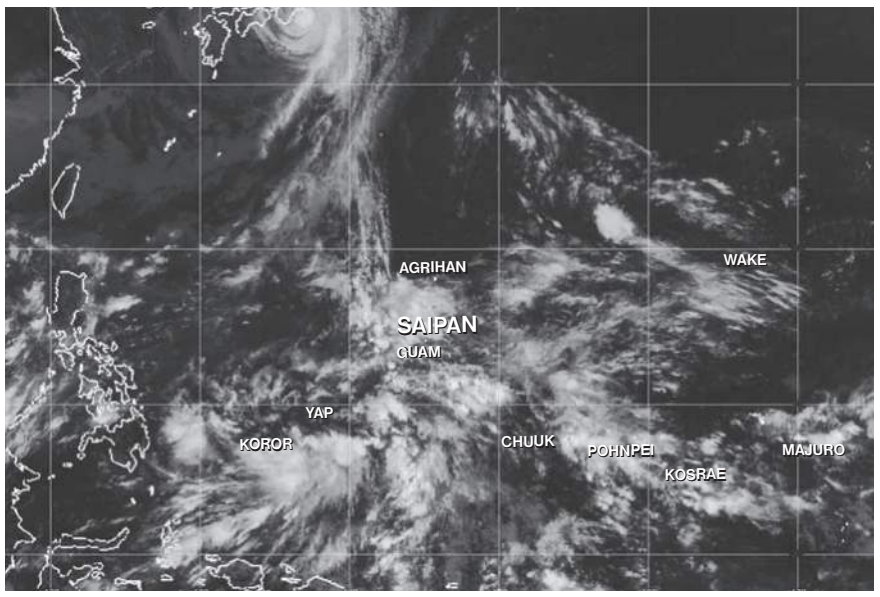
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼79 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲84 | ▼77 |
| Yap | Rain | ▲84 | ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲81 | ▼76 |
| Pohnpei | Rain | ▲83 | ▼75 |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | ▲85 | ▼77 |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | ▲84 | ▼77 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | ▲64 | ▼51 |
| Beijing | Sunny | ▲76 | ▼52 |
| Hong Kong | Mostly Cloudy | ▲88 | ▼79 |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | ▲88 | ▼75 |
| London | Partly Cloudy | ▲67 | ▼51 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲81 | ▼64 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | ▲62 | ▼48 |
| Miami | Thundershowers | ▲88 | ▼78 |
| New York | Showers | ▲77 | ▼68 |
| Osaka | Sunny | ▲78 | ▼64 |
| Paris | Sunny | ▲71 | ▼49 |
| Pusan | Mostly Sunny | ▲76 | ▼64 |
| Rome | Sunny | ▲84 | ▼64 |
| Salem | Mostly Cloudy | ▲84 | ▼62 |
| San Francisco | Sunny | ▲80 | ▼60 |
| Seoul | Sunny | ▲75 | ▼56 |
| Tokyo | Showers | ▲77 | ▼65 |
| Washington, DC | Thundershowers | ▲79 | ▼71 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers associated with Typhoon Roke (18W) just south of Japan are found north of a line from 20N130E to 18N132E to 19N142E. A large but weak circulation is centered east of Yap near 10N141E. Extensive cloudiness, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found in the area bounded by 10N130E to 8N140E to 10N140E to 12N147E to 10N150E to 1N145E to 1N130E back to 10N130E including Koror but south of Yap. Low-level convergence on the northeastern and eastern flanks of the large circulation is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 5N159E to 13N154E to 17N141E including Pohnpei and the Mariana Islands. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers across the Marshall Islands and Kiribati in the area bounded by 4N161E to 10N168E to 9N179E to EQ177E back to 4N161E. This includes Kosrae, Kwajalein and Majuro. Scattered showers associated with an upper-level low south of Minami Tori Shima are found within 50 miles either side of a line from 17N151E to 20N154E and between 21N and 23N from 156E to 159E.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:03 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.6 Feet |
| 8:53 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.1 Feet |
| 4:23 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.7 Feet |
| 9:40 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.2 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:06 AM | 6:14 PM |
| Friday | 6:06 AM | 6:13 PM |
| Saturday | 6:06 AM | 6:12 PM |
| Sunday | 6:06 AM | 6:11 PM |
| Monday | 6:06 AM | 6:11 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 12:38 AM | 1:51 PM |
| Friday | 1:34 AM | 2:40 PM |
| Saturday | 2:32 AM | 3:27 PM |
| Sunday | 3:30 AM | 4:13 PM |
| Monday | 4:29 AM | 5:00 PM |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

**POLICY**

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)** | | | | **ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)** | | | |
| C09314 | 2:20am | 2:50am | 1, 5 | C09315 | 5:30am | 6:00am | 1, 5 |
| **SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)** | | | | **ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)** | | | |
| C09315 | 4:25am | 5:00am | 1, 5 | C09314 | 3:20am | 3:55am | 1, 5 |
| **SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)** | | | | **GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| C09317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 | C09314 | 2:20am | 3:55am | 1, 5 via ROP |
| C09315 | 4:25am | 6:00am | 1, 5 via ROP | C09316 | 2:45am | 3:35am | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| C09313 | 7:55am | 8:45am | 3, 6 | 5K387 | 6:30am | 7:20am | 3, 7 |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C09596 | 6:35am | 7:25am | 3, 6 |
| C09601 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 | C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09603 | 3:05pm | 3:55pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | 5K389 | 8:10am | 9:00am | 1, 5 |
| 5K386 | 5:50pm | 6:40pm | 4, 7 | C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09605 | 6:35pm | 7:25pm | Daily | C09602 | 1:40pm | 2:30pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09599 | 9:35pm | 10:25pm | Daily | C09604 | 5:10pm | 6:00pm | Daily |
| 5K382 | 10:40pm | 11:30pm | 1, 5 | C09606 | 8:10pm | 9:00pm | Daily |
| **SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)** | | | | **NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| 5K212 | 8:20am | 10:55am | 3, 4, 7 | 5K213 | 11:55am | 4:25pm | 3, 4, 7 |
| **SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)** | | | | **OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 6:40am | Daily | OZ120 | 9:50pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily |
| **SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)** | | | | **NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| DL287 | 6:05am | 8:45am | Daily | DL298 | 10:25am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:15pm | Daily | DL288 | 8:05pm | 12:45am+1 | Daily |
| **SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)** | | | | **SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ606 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 | OZ603 | 9:00am | 2:30pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ606 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | OZ120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily via KIX |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 11:25am | Daily via KIX | OZ605 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ604 | 3:30pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 | OZ605 | 8:10pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| **SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)** | | | | **GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 | 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |
| **SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)** | | | | **SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| 3U8648 | 6:05am | 8:30am | 1, 5 | 3U8647 | 10:40pm | 5:00am+1 | 4, 7 |
| **SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)** | | | | **MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ606/701 | 2:20am | 11:15am | 1 via ICN | OZ704/603 | 12:10am | 2:30pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ606/701 | 2:50am | 11:15am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | DL172/288 | 7:45am | 12:45am+1 | Daily via NRT |
| C09317/191 | 4:25am | 9:45am | 3, 6 via GUM | C0190/9606 | 10:55am | 9:00pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| DL287/173 | 6:05am | 9:55pm | Daily via NRT | OZ702/605 | 12:45pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| C09313/183 | 7:55am | 8:40pm | 3, 6 via GUM | OZ702/605 | 12:45pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| C09603/183 | 3:05pm | 8:40pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM | C0192/9596 | 9:55pm | 7:25am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau |
| C09603/193 | 3:05pm | 10:10pm | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau | PR110/C09596 | 10:00pm | 7:25am+1 | 5 via GUM |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:30pm | 7:50am | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM | PR110/C09596 | 10:00pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| | | | | C0184/9596 | 10:55pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| | | | | C0184/9596 | 11:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |
| **SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)** | | | | **HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ606/721 | 2:20am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN | OZ724/603 | 12:30am | 2:30pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ606/721 | 2:50am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | OZ722/605 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| 5K168 | 9:45am | 12:55pm | 1, 5 | OZ722/605 | 1:10pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| C09603/179 | 3:05pm | 9:25pm | 1, 5 via GUM | 5K169 | 2:20pm | 9:25pm | 1, 5 |
| | | | | C0180/9596 | 10:30pm | 7:25am+1 | 5 via GUM |
| | | | | C0180/9596 | 10:30pm | 7:50am+1 | 1 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily |
| **Rota–Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily |
| **Guam–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily |
| **Rota–Saipan** | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| **Rota–Guam** | 10:20 | 10:45 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily |
| **Rota–Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| **Tinian–Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |

# Business

# Management transition announced at FHB

**HAGÅTÑA, Guam**—Don Horner, 60, has announced his retirement as chief executive officer of First Hawaiian Bank at the end of this year. He will continue to serve as the bank's chairman.

Bob Harrison, 51, who currently serves as president and chief operating officer, will succeed Horner as CEO at year-end. Ray Ono, who is vice chairman and chief banking officer, will assume Harrison's title as COO.

Horner

Harrison

Harrison

"These moves ensure an orderly transition and are part of our strategic succession planning process. Our bank has a history of promoting from within to ensure that our culture, commitments, and core values are well maintained," Horner said. "I have been blessed with a long and fulfilling 33-year career with the bank. There comes a time when we need to turn the reins over to the next generation of leaders. I am confident that the bank's highly experienced and dedicated management team and staff will continue to build on the bank's 153-year history of achievement under Bob's leadership."

In his role as board chairman, Horner will continue to be involved in bank strategy and oversight while Harrison, as chief executive officer, will take over the day-to-day responsibilities of managing the bank, effective Jan. 1, 2012.

Horner said that he is looking forward to continue to serve and invest in the community.

"No one person can replace Don. He has had a remarkable career with the bank. However, our management team is committed to carry on the bank's legacy of strong financial performance and supporting our communities," Harrison said. "The core values that have served as the foundation of our bank will not change. They will continue to guide our relationships with our customers, communities, and employees. We remain a relationship bank committed to serving the markets in which we do business."

Harrison also noted that, "Our Senior Management team has an average of 25 years of service with the bank."

In addition to Ono, other vice chairmen on the senior management team include:

■ Robert Fujioka, vice chairman and chief lending officer, who will continue to be responsible for Corporate Banking, Commercial Real Estate and Leasing;

■ Albert Yamada, vice chairman, CFO, and chief administrative officer, who will continue to be responsible for Finance, Human Resources, Legal, Compliance and Investments;

■ Gary Caulfield, vice chairman and chief information officer, who will continue to be responsible for Technology, Data Management, Operations and Research.

Harrison joined First Hawaiian in branch banking in 1996 and has over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry. He was named vice chairman in 2007 and president and chief operating officer in 2009. He earned a degree in Applied Mathematics at UCLA and holds an MBA from Cornell University.

Active in the community, Harrison currently serves on the boards of the Blood Bank of Hawaii, the Japan-America Society, the Hawaii Community Foundation and Aloha Harvest, where he serves as chairman. He also serves as treasurer of the Maryknoll School board and is chair of the finance committee for the Diocese of Honolulu. He is married to Lori Ku'uipo Kam Harrison of Honolulu. She is a registered nurse and was honored as the Nurse of the Year in 1994. They have three children.

Ono joined First Hawaiian in 1978 as a trainee and has worked his way steadily through the ranks since that time. He was named vice chairman in 2007 and chief banking officer in 2009. A graduate of Iolani School, he holds both an undergraduate degree and an MBA from Willamette University. He is also a graduate of the Pacific Coast Banking School.

He serves on the boards of the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, St. Andrew's Priory, Friends of Hawaii Charities and Ahahui Koa Anuenue.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with over $15 billion in total assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. ***(FHB)***

## United Continental launches fare sale to Okinawa

### » As low as $384 and Double Mile campaign

**GUAM**—United Continental Holdings, Inc. announced the launch of a fare sale and double mile campaign with the introduction of non-stop four-times-weekly service between Guam and Okinawa, Japan, which will begin September 28, 2011.

Roundtrip fares to Okinawa will start as low as $384 from Guam and $459 from Saipan. The special fare offer is valid for outbound travel starting Sept. 28, 2011, and lasting through Dec. 17, 2011. Tickets must be issued three days after reservations are made or 14 days prior to departure (whichever is earlier), but no later than Sept. 30, 2011. Travel is valid only on CO/UA 174 and 146 flights with a minimum two-day stay and maximum stay of 14 days. All segments must be confirmed at time of ticketing and an open return is not permitted. Upgrades and mileage accruals are applicable. Any changes to the itinerary may be made prior to scheduled flights with a $25 administrative service fee and subject to availability and new fare conditions. Changes requested after departure of the originally scheduled flights are not permitted. Tickets are non-refundable and fares are subject to a fuel surcharge each way and do not include taxes and PFC charges of as much as $24 per ticket. Other restrictions may also apply.

United/Continental Airlines have also launched a double mile campaign. Through March 31, 2012, applicable on round trips between Guam and Okinawa, fares will accrue miles at double the usual rate. In order to participate in the campaign, passengers on applicable flights will be required to register before traveling at Continental's website: www.continental.com/onepass and enter promotion code 53046 for registration.

The new service will be scheduled as follows (beginning Sept. 28, 2011)

| Days | Flight | Departure | Time | Arrival | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat | CO/UA 146 | Guam | 7:20pm | Okinawa | 9:55pm |
| Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat | CO/UA 174 | Okinawa | 10:50pm | Guam | 3:30am (+1)* |

For travel bookings and other customer inquiries, please contact the local Continental reservation office: Guam: +1- 671-647-6453; Saipan: +1-866-359-6435. ***(United Continental)***

## Fed is expected to take new action to lift economy

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Federal Reserve is running out of options to try to boost a slumping economy and lower unemployment. So policymakers are expected to reach 50 years back into their playbook for their next move.

Most economists expect the Fed to announce a plan Wednesday to shift money in its $1.7 trillion portfolio out of short-term securities and into longer-term holdings.

The plan could lower Treasury yields further. Ultimately, it could reduce rates on mortgages and other consumer and business loans, too.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke is expected to advocate the move despite criticism from within the Fed and from Republican lawmakers and presidential candidates.

On Monday, the four highest-ranking Republicans in Congress sent Bernanke a letter cautioning the Fed against taking further steps to lower interest rates. Their letter suggested that lower rates could escalate the risk of high inflation.

The plan the Fed is considered most likely to unveil Wednesday has been dubbed "Operation Twist" and dates to the early 1960s. The Fed used a similar program then to "twist" long-term rates lower relative to short-term rates.

Expectations that the Fed will do so again, along with renewed fears of another recession, have led investors to buy up U.S. Treasurys. Treasury yields have dropped in response.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note last week touched a historic low of 1.87 percent. On Tuesday, it finished slightly higher, 1.93 percent.

Once the Fed announced last month that it would expand its September meeting from one to two days, most economists have predicted that policymakers would unveil some new step. Chairman Ben Bernanke has said that the Fed is considering a range of options.

The central bank is under pressure to revive an economy that has limped along for more than two years since the recession officially ended. In the first six months of this year, the economy grew at an annual rate of just 0.7 percent. In August, the economy didn't add any jobs, and consumers didn't increase their spending on retail goods.

## IMF: World economy enters 'dangerous new phase'

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The world economy has entered a "dangerous new phase," according to the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund. As a result, the international lending organization has sharply downgraded its economic outlook for the United States and Europe through the end of next year.

The IMF expects the U.S. economy to grow just 1.5 percent this year and 1.8 percent in 2012. That's down from its June forecast of 2.5 percent in 2011 and 2.7 percent next year.

To achieve even that still-low level of growth, the U.S. economy would need to expand at a much faster rate in the second half of the year than its 0.7 percent annual pace in the first six months.

Most economists expect growth of between 1.5 percent and 2 percent in the final two quarters. Though an improvement, it wouldn't be enough to lower the unemployment rate. The rate has been 9 percent or higher in all but two months since the recession officially ended more than two years ago.

AP

This file photo taken Aug. 31, 2011, shows crowds of job-seekers waiting to enter a job fair at Crenshaw Christian Center in South Los Angeles.

"The global economy has entered a dangerous new phase," said Olivier Blanchard, the IMF's chief economist. "The recovery has weakened considerably. Strong policies are needed to improve the outlook and reduce the risks."

The IMF has also lowered its outlook for the 17 countries that use the euro. It predicts 1.6 percent growth this year and 1.1 percent next year, down from its June projections of 2 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively.

The gloomier forecast for Europe is based on worries that euro nations won't be able to contain their debt crisis and keep it from destabilizing the region.

**STOCK PORTFOLIO**

**LEADING INDICATORS**

| DOW | S&P | NASDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| 11,408.66 | 1,202.09 | 2,590.24 |
| +7.65 | 0.00 | -22.59 |
| +0.07% | 0.00% | -0.86% |

**EXCHANGE RATES**

In U.S. dollar terms

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australian Dollar | 0.973 | Hong Kong Dollar | 7.7889 | Philippine Peso | 43.465 |
| British Pound | 0.6361 | Indian Rupee | 47.8488 | Singapore Dollar | 1.2634 |
| Canadian Dollar | 0.9929 | Indonesian Rupiah | 8953.12 | South Korean Won | 1149.72 |
| Chinese Yuan | 6.3784 | Japanese Yen | 76.354 | Swiss Franc | 0.8945 |
| Euro | 0.7299 | Malaysian Ringgit | 3.117 | Taiwan Dollar | 29.8883 |
| | | New Zealand Dollar | 1.2161 | Thailand Baht | 30.41 |

# Nation

## NWS: Many in Joplin ignored first tornado warnings

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Many Joplin residents either ignored or were slow to react to the first warning sirens about a massive and deadly tornado this spring, partially because of years of false alarms, the government said Tuesday.

In assessing the communications and warning systems used before and during the storm that killed 162 people, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said many people waited for additional information like seeing the tornado or a television or radio report about the urgency of the threat.

"The majority of surveyed Joplin residents did not immediately go to shelter upon hearing the initial warning," the report said, adding that those people "did not take protective action until processing additional credible confirmation of the threat and its magnitude from a non-routine, extraordinary risk trigger."

A "vast majority" of Joplin residents didn't respond to the first siren because of an apparent widespread disregard for tornado sirens, according to the report.

AP

In this May 30, 2011, file photo damage is seen in a devastated Joplin, Mo. neighborhood. A federal agency was set to release a report Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011, detailing communication efforts ahead of the massive twister that hit Joplin, killing more than 160 people.

Richard Wagenmaker, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Detroit and leader of the assessment team, said it was unclear if the slow public response cost lives.

"It's really hard to tell how many people that perished in the tornado did not take shelter," Wagenmaker said during a conference call. "It was a very large tornado, so there were certainly a number of people who did all the right things, took shelter in the best available place, but still found themselves in situations that weren't survivable. So it's really hard to make that assessment."

The report also said the National Weather Service was overall well-prepared and "performed in an exemplary manner" and that the combined efforts from the weather service, emergency management and the public "saved many lives."

But there were also lessons to be learned, including beefing up the wording in tornado warnings, the report said. After the intensity of the storm was clear, the resulting warnings weren't worded strongly enough "to accurately portray that immediate action was necessary to save lives."

Instead, the tornado warnings issued were the "basic template," Wagenmaker said.

"Once there became an awareness that something big was going on, we wanted the severe weather statements and warnings to project a heightened sense of urgency," he said. The warnings should have said "something along the lines of `This is a very large and dangerous tornado and don't mess around,' basically."

The report said the weather service was considering developing other forms of notifications including GPS-based communications involving text messages, smart phone apps and upgrades to the Emergency Alert System and NOAA Weather Radio.

NOAA also said the agency wanted more collaboration between what it calls the "weather enterprise," which includes the weather service, media and emergency management, in order to make warning systems consistently better at conveying the seriousness of a threat.

Keith Stammer, Jasper County emergency manager, said Joplin is a "weather-ready community" and supported the NOAA assessment.

"We have for years ... promoted weather radios and shelter in place," he said.

He said the city has applied for federal funding 10,000 weather radios for Joplin households and for 4,000 in-place shelters for Joplin residents. The NWS assessment should illustrate the need for those resources, Stammer said.

## US military milestone: End to ban on gay service

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The U.S. military passed a historic milestone Tuesday with the repeal of the ban on gays serving openly in uniform, ending a prohibition that President Barack Obama said had forced gay and lesbian service members to "lie about who they are."

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta pledged not to allow other issues of equal opportunity, such as allowing women to serve in combat roles, to be ignored or set aside.

"I am committed to removing all of the barriers that would prevent Americans from serving their country and from rising to the highest level of responsibility that their talents and capabilities warrant," Panetta told a Pentagon news conference. "These are men and women who put their lives on the line in the defense of this country, and that's what should matter the most."

Repeal of the 18-year-old legal provision—commonly known as "don't ask, don't tell," under which gays can serve as long as they don't openly acknowledge their sexual orientation—took effect Tuesday at 12:01 a.m. EDT.

Appearing with Panetta for what was probably his final news Pentagon conference as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retiring Navy Adm. Mike Mullen said that with the new law allowing gays to serve openly, the military is a stronger, more tolerant force with greater character and honor.

"I still believe that it was first and foremost a matter of integrity, that it was fundamentally against everything we stand for as an institution to force people to lie about who they are just to wear a uniform," Mullen said. "We are better than that."

Some in Congress still oppose the change, arguing that it may undermine order and discipline, but top Pentagon leaders have certified that it will not hurt the military's ability to recruit or to fight wars.

Obama issued a statement saying he is confident that lifting the ban will enhance U.S. national security.

"As of today, patriotic Americans in uniform will no longer have to lie about who they are in order to serve the country they love," he said. "As of today, our armed forces will no longer lose the extraordinary skills and combat experience of so many gay and lesbian service members."

The head of Pentagon personnel policies issued a memo to the work force at a minute after midnight Tuesday. "All service members are to treat one another with dignity and respect regardless of sexual orientation," the memo from Clifford Stanley said.

Gay advocacy groups celebrated across the country.

At a San Diego bar, current and former troops danced and counted down to midnight. "You are all heroes," Sean Sala, a former Navy operations specialist, said. "The days of your faces being blacked out on the news—no more."

## Death toll rises to 11 in crash at Reno air races

**RENO, Nev.** (AP)—When 50-year-old Craig Salerno went missing after attending the Reno air races with friends, his wife didn't need DNA testing to confirm her worst fears.

Her husband, the father of their two young children, was sitting in the VIP section where a fighter plane landed in an explosive crash Friday afternoon. Salerno's friend was taken to the hospital with critical injuries. There was no way Salerno, an avid racing pilot there to watch the show, had survived.

"The family knew," said Tony Buzbee, a spokesman for the Friendswood, Texas family. "There is no delicate way to say this; the problem was there was no way to confirm he was dead other than DNA testing."

Medical officials confirmed Salerno's death to his wife Monday night, bringing the death toll in what has become the nation's deadliest racing disaster up to at least 11.

A spokesman for the medical examiner's office said investigators have been trying to identify body parts since the gruesome accident at the annual National Championship Air Races. The names of all the known fatal victims had been confirmed by police or family by late Tuesday. Another 14 victims remained in area hospitals for treatment.

More than 1,300 people had called a Reno crisis line in the days after the crash, many to report missing race spectators. Officials are trying to track down each missing person but have not released an official count.

"They have an awful lot of legal hurdles that they have to go through before they can announce especially the names (of the dead) but also the number of deceased," Washoe County spokesman Chris Matthews said. "They have to verify that they are in fact looking at a deceased person, as opposed to looking at an arm of a person who is not deceased and is in the hospital."

The newly identified victims were a Kansas woman previously reported missing, a father who took his 12-year-old son to see the racing pilots, a man who loved airplanes and Salerno.

Relatives of the Kansas woman, 71-year-old Cheryl Elvin of Lenexa, had said she was likely dead because the relatives who had attended the show with her were all taken to area hospitals for critical leg injuries.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Training flights suspended after Calif. air crash

**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** (AP)—Training flights for a Marine Corps squadron have been suspended after two pilots died in the crash of a helicopter at Camp Pendleton. A spokesman for the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing says Tuesday that nonessential flights are on hold at the Southern California base, as well as at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station and in Yuma, Ariz. Sgt. Derek Carlson says the training freeze, expected to continue until Thursday, gives pilots time to review safety procedures and conduct routine maintenance. He says suspensions occur occasionally and aren't typically due to a single incident. The pilots killed in Monday's crash have been identified as Capt. Jeffrey Bland, a 37-year-old native of Champaign, Ill., and 1st Lt. Thomas Heitmann, a 27-year-old native of Mendota, Ill.

### Jeffs out of hospital, heads to another prison

**HUNTSVILLE, Texas** (AP)—Polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs was en route to a Texas state prison Tuesday night following his discharge from a hospital at another prison where he was treated after becoming sick while fasting, a state official said. Jeffs was discharged Monday night from the state prison hospital in Galveston and will receive further treatment in a prison infirmary until he's well enough to return to his cell, Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jason Clark said. Clark declined to identify Jeffs' destination for security reasons.

# Asia

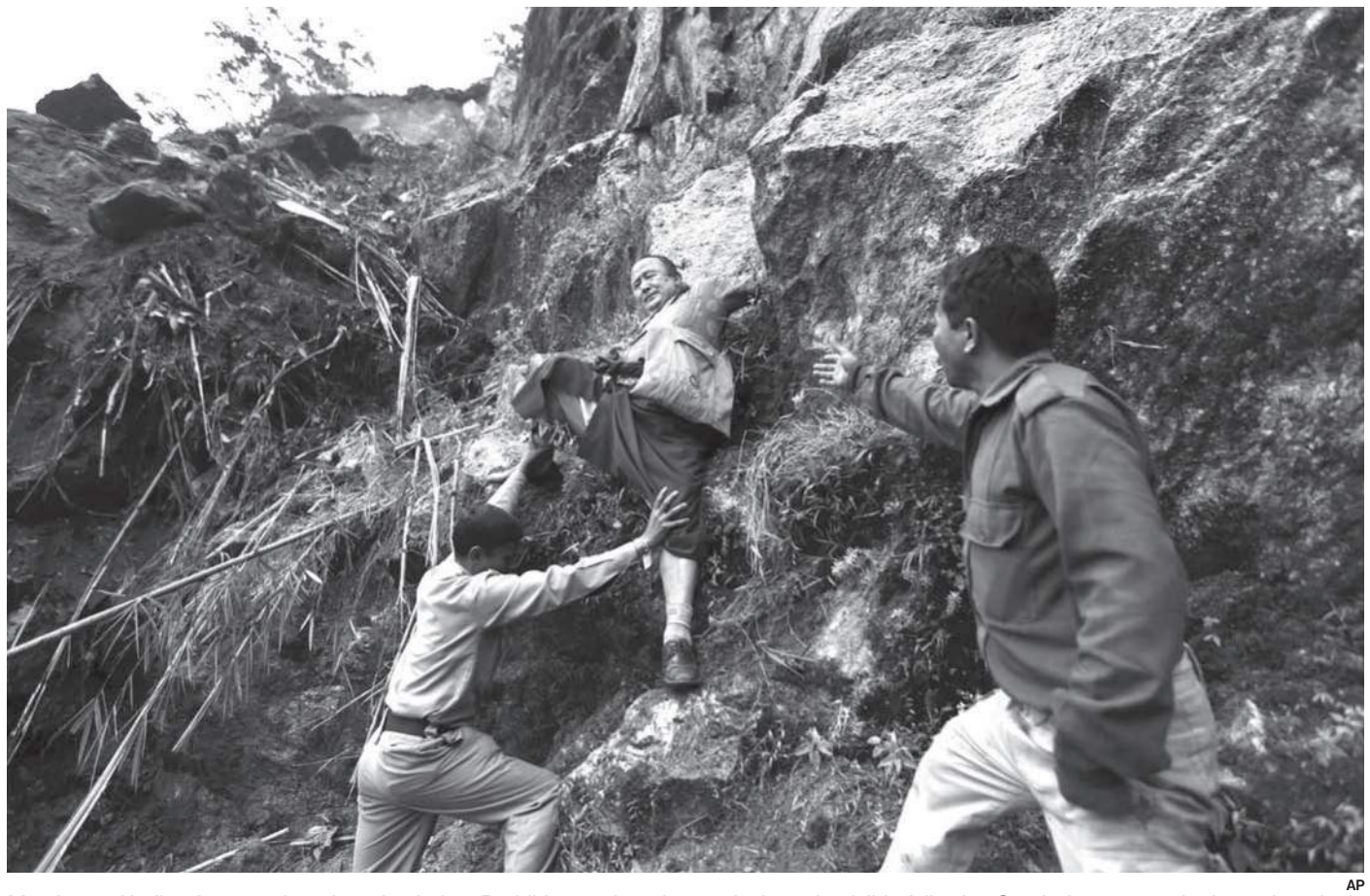
# Death toll at 81 for quake in India, Nepal, China

**GANGTOK, India** (AP)—Thousands of terrified survivors of a Himalayan earthquake that killed 81 people and shook parts of India, Nepal and China crowded Tuesday into shelters and relatives' homes or stayed out in the open for fear of aftershocks.

Soldiers used dynamite and earthmovers to clear landslides on highways through the steep valleys linking the worst-hit northeastern Indian state of Sikkim to the rest of India. They managed to clear a path to Mangan, the town closest to the epicenter of Sunday's 6.9-magnitude quake, but many other communities remained cut off and authorities fear the death toll could rise once rescuers reach them.

Indian army helicopters ferried rescuers and dropped food and supplies to still-inaccessible villages in Sikkim, a sparsely populated and almost entirely mountainous region that was an independent protectorate before becoming an Indian state in 1975.

Residents of the state, which borders Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Chinese region of Tibet, have been spooked by at least five aftershocks since Sunday, with the strongest a magnitude 5.3.



AP

Members of Indian Army engineering wing help a Buddhist monk to descend a huge landslide following Sunday's 6.9 magnitude earthquake in Phengla around 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Gangtok, in Sikkim, India, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011.

Residents of Mangan spent a second day in the open, too panicky to stay in their badly damaged homes, a police official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

A 300-year-old Buddhist monastery was severely damaged but the monks escaped unhurt, head monk Pema Dorjee said.

"We had just finished evening prayers when we were totally shaken by the earthquake. It's a miracle that none of us were injured," he said by telephone.

Military helicopters made dozens of trips to drop food to residents and airlift the seriously injured to hospitals.

Dawa Lendup Lepcha, 25, a university student in Gangtok, Sikkim's capital, said that even though the room he rents was not badly damaged, he was too nervous to stay there alone and moved in with a cousin.

"Even now we feel scared. If a car makes a loud sound or there is some other sudden noise I feel very scared," he said.

Thousands of others moved out of their homes in Gangtok and neighboring villages and took shelter in the open grounds of a university building and a soccer stadium. Many were sleeping outside, huddling under blankets to ward off the cold. Nighttime temperatures have been about 17 degrees Celsius (62 Fahrenheit).

By late Tuesday a few villagers with badly injured relatives had begun to arrive at Gangtok's main hospital.

Thurba Singh Sherpa walked for nine hours carrying his 6-year-old son, who was injured when a large boulder fell on the jeep he was traveling in.

Two other children died on the spot and two others, more critically injured, were airlifted by helicopters, Sherpa said.

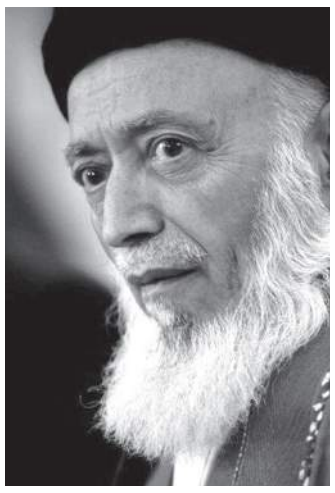
The quake killed at least 50 people in Sikkim and caused extensive damage to homes and buildings, said the state's top official, Karma Gyatso.

# Suicide bomber kills former Afghan president

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—A suicide attacker with a bomb in his turban posed as a Taliban peace envoy and assassinated a former Afghan president who for the past year headed a government council seeking a political settlement with the insurgents.

Tuesday's attack, carried out in former President Burhanuddin Rabbani's Kabul home, dealt a harsh blow to attempts at ending a decade of war. The killing of Rabbani, an ethnic Tajik and one of the wise old men of Afghan politics, will blunt efforts to keep in check the regional and ethnic rivalries that help feed the insurgency.

President Hamid Karzai cut short a visit to the United Nations and called on Afghans to remain unified in the face of Rabbani's "martyrdom." An emergency Cabinet meeting was called for Wednesday.



AP

In this Oct.14, 2010, file photo, former Afghan President and chief of a new peace council Burhanuddin Rabbani holds a press conference, in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The attack came days after a daytime assault by insurgents on the U.S. Embassy and NATO headquarters that deepened a sense of insecurity in the capital.

NATO said in a statement that two suicide bombers were involved in the attack on Rabbani, both of them men who had feigned a desire to reconcile with the government. It was unclear if a second bomber was able to detonate his explosives.

Afghan officials, however, insisted there was only one attacker. Four men were wounded, including a key presidential adviser, said Mohammad Zahir, the head of criminal investigations for the Kabul police. Initial reports had four bodyguards killed but Zahir said those were incorrect.

Close friends of Rabbani said that the former president returned from a trip to Iran to meet with a man who had been described as a high-ranking Taliban contact. The visitor, a young man, was shown into the house by two of Rabbani's associates at the Afghan High Peace Council, who insisted that he did not need to be fully searched, said a friend who spoke anonymously because he was not a spokesman.

# Powerful typhoon headed toward Japan disaster zone

**TOKYO** (AP)—A powerful typhoon was bearing down on Japan's tsunami-ravaged northeastern coast Wednesday, approaching a nuclear power plant crippled in that disaster and prompting calls for the evacuation of more than a million people.

Even before its arrival Typhoon Roke turned deadly, with local media and police reporting five people killed or missing after being swept away by rivers swollen with rain.

The storm, packing winds of up to 134 mph (216 kph), was expected to make landfall along Japan's southeast coast around midday and then cut a path northeast through Tokyo and into the northeastern Tohoku region, which was devastated by the March 11 tsunami and earthquake.

Also in the path of the storm is the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, which started spewing radiation after it was sent into meltdown by the tsunami.

Takeo Iwamoto, spokesman for Tokyo Electric Power Co., the utility that operates the plant, said the cooling system for the reactors, crucial to keeping them under control, will not be endangered by the typhoon.

He said some construction work around the plant was canceled and utmost efforts were under way to prevent leaks of radioactive water and other material from the typhoon.

Japanese media reports said more than a million people have been ordered or advised to evacuate across the country as their homes may be flooded or buried in mudslides triggered by the typhoon. The numbers varied, as there is no nationwide tally, and the situation has been flexible. The Mainichi nationwide newspaper reported 1.4 million people were issued evacuation warnings, while the Yomiuri newspaper put the number at 1.2 million.

The city of Nagoya temporarily called off an evacuation warning for 880,000 people when swelling in a major river subsided, but officials said the warning was likely to be reissued as the storm neared.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Gunmen attack Shiite pilgrims in Pakistan; 26 dead

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—Suspected Sunni extremists opened fire on Shiite Muslim pilgrims traveling by bus through southwest Pakistan on Tuesday on their way to in Iran, killing 26 people, officials and survivors said Sunni militants with ideological and operational links to al-Qaida and the Taliban have carried out scores of bombings and shootings against Shiites in recent years, but this attack was especially bloody. At least eight attackers in a pickup truck blocked the path of the bus as it traveled through Baluchistan province, and then forced the passengers off, said Khushhal Khan, the driver of the vehicle. The passengers tried to run away, but the gunmen opened fire, killing 26 people and wounding six others, said Khan.

### Flooding, heavy rains kills 14 in China

**BEIJING** (AP)—Heavy rains that have unleashed flooding across southwest China and left at least 14 people dead will continue to pound the region in the coming days, the country's meteorological agency said Tuesday. The latest deaths, reported by the official Xinhua News Agency, occurred in Sichuan province. Photos from the province posted on Xinhua's website showed homes and cars submerged in water and people rowing to safety. Landslides and mudslides have toppled homes and blocked roads in the area, and the National Meteorological Center forecast that the torrential rains that caused them will last for another three days.

### Police say Chinese reporter killed in robbery

**BEIJING** (AP)—Chinese police say a reporter was murdered in a robbery and not because of his reporting as speculated online and in some local media reports. Police in Luoyang city in Henan province said Wednesday that Li Xiang was stabbed Sunday night in a robbery and that two suspects have been caught. Internet users and some news reports had suggested the attack in which Li was stabbed at least 10 times was linked to an ongoing scandal involving recycled food oil.

# World

# Palestinians relentless in push for UN membership

**UNITED NATIONS** (AP)—French President Nicolas Sarkozy urged the Palestinians on Tuesday to drop their bid for U.N. membership and opt instead for upgraded status in the world body, but Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas remained determined to pursue international recognition of an independent state.

Diplomats close to the talks said Sarkozy would outline on Wednesday his proposal for the Palestinians to seek approval in the General Assembly, where no member holds a veto, for a resolution that would make Palestine a non-member observer state, raising their status from that of permanent observer.

Such a move would avoid a certain U.S. veto if the Palestinian membership bid were put to a vote in the Security Council. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private talks.

■■■

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The French and U.S. presidents planned to heap pressure on their Palestinian counterpart Wednesday in a concerted push to persuade Mahmoud Abbas to end his bid for full U.N. membership and to instead seek upgraded status in the world body.**

**Nicolas Sarkozy, the French leader, will make his pitch during a speech at the opening session of the U.N. General Assembly. After he speaks to the world body, President Barack Obama will likewise argue against the Palestinian drive for U.N. membership when he meets with Abbas on Wednesday.**

**U.S. officials conceded they cannot stop Abbas from officially launching his case for the Security Council's approval of the statehood effort, but also make the case for the Palestinian leader to essentially drop the move for stateood recognition after delivering his letter of intent to the U.N.**

■■■

With Abbas determined to seek membership rather than upgraded status, the Palestinian delegation relentlessly knocked on diplomatic doors at the U.N. trying to sell their case for international recognition. Israel's prime minister, meanwhile, issued dire warnings against hasty action as he boarded his jet for New York.

The issue of the unilateral Palestinian declaration of statehood, born of decades of frustration and failed negotiations with Israel, has consumed diplomats who are gathering for Wednesday's opening of the annual U.N. General Assembly ministerial meeting.

Abbas has rejected all attempts to steer him away from formally submitting an application for full U.N. membership. He plans to submit the application on Friday when he speaks to assembled world leaders.

For his part, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a meeting with members of his hardline Likud Party before leaving Jerusalem late Tuesday, vowed to speak "the truth" in New York—"the truth of a people that wants peace, a nation that was attacked time after time and that is being attacked time after time by those that don't oppose our policies but rather our very existence."

He said he would warn world leaders against prematurely establishing a Palestinian state when many issues in the conflict must still be resolved. He did not elaborate, saying this would be the focus of his speech to the U.N. on Friday, scheduled shortly after Abbas'.

The White House said late Tuesday that President Barack Obama would meet with Abbas on the sidelines of the U.N. gathering on Wednesday. Obama's diplomatic team has repeatedly said the United States, Israel's closest ally, would exercise its Security Council veto should the Palestinians win the necessary nine of 15 votes in the powerful body to adopt a resolution recommending U.N. membership for Palestine.

Officials close to the U.S. and European delegations indicated Obama would be making a last effort to steer Abbas away from a move in the Security Council that would force Washington to act on its promise to block the move. American diplomats have worked at a furious pace to lure the Palestinians back to negotiations, knowing a U.S. veto was certain to inflame anti-American sentiment in the Arab world.

While the U.S has said it will vote no, the other 14 members of the U.N. Security Council have not publicly declared their positions. China, Russia, India, Lebanon, South Africa and Brazil were all expected to vote yes. Germany was expected to vote no with the United States or abstain. Still unknown were the positions of France, Britain, Bosnia, Colombia, Gabon, Nigeria, Portugal with many saying they needed to see the text of a draft resolution before making a decision.

U.S. and other diplomats say the European Union, supported by the U.S., now was trying to work out wording of an agreement that could avert the U.N. showdown over Palestine. There was no sign, however, that either Israel or the Palestinians will agree.

Officials say Israel is being asked to accept its pre-1967 War borders with land swaps as the basis for a two-state solution. The Palestinians would essentially have to recognize Israel's Jewish character.

Those issues remain sticking points. Officials say there is also disagreement among the mediators as Russia is finds some elements unacceptable.

## Palestinians want upgraded U.N. status

*The Palestinian Authority has vowed to upgrade its official status with the United Nations, seeking either recognition as a "non-member state," or as a fully recognized state. A look at the challenges and potential benefits involved:*

**Current status**

The Palestinian Authority is a U.N. observer "entity" without voting rights; the European Union is also an observer, while the Vatican is known as a non-member observer; neither can vote

**What those involved want**

• **Palestinians** President Mahmoud Abbas wants to address the General Assembly this month and seek their support for an upgrade to Palestine's status

• **United States** President Barack Obama said last year he hoped a Palestinian state could be admitted to the United Nations by the time the General Assembly convenes

• **Israel** Lobbying against the Palestinian bid for upgraded status, which it sees as an attempt to isolate Israel

**How the United Nations admits new states**

• Application is sent to the U.N. secretary-general

• If 15-nation Security Council approves, it is passed to the General Assembly for a vote; 129 votes (two-thirds) required

• Both Security Council and General Assembly must approve application

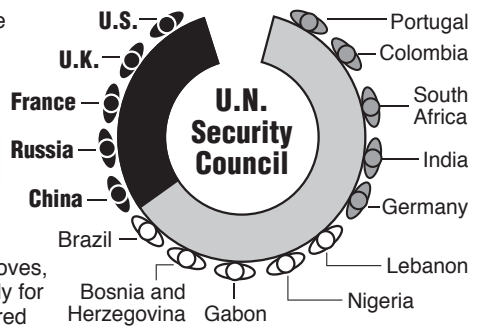
**Is "non-member status" an option?**

• Such status is what Switzerland had before joining the United Nations in 2002

• Advantage of this option is it would only require simple majority vote of 193-nation General Assembly, not two-thirds required for full membership

• As a non-member state, Palentinians could sign certain international treaties

**Permanent members with veto power**




**Membership expires on ...**

○ Dec. 31, 2011 ● Dec. 31, 2012

SOURCE: Reuters, United Nations Graphic: Robert Dorrell

© 2011 MCT

# *Obama aims to salvage Mideast crisis aversion plan*

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The U.S. and its allies changed tactics Tuesday on how to avert a crisis over a Palestinian statehood bid, as the White House announced that President Barack Obama would meet Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. At the same time, U.S. officials conceded they could not stop Abbas from officially launching his case for the Security Council's approval of the statehood effort.

But they hoped to contain the fallout by urging Abbas not to push for an actual vote in the Council, where the U.S. has promised a veto, to give international peacemakers time to produce a statement that would be the basis for resumed Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Obama is expected to make a pro forma request to Abbas when they meet Wednesday not to proceed with his initial plan, but also make the case for the Palestinian leader to essentially drop the move for statehood recognition after delivering his letter of intent to the U.N., expected Friday.

"The president will be able to say very directly why we believe that action at the United Nations is not the way to achieve a Palestinian state," said Ben Rhodes, the White House deputy national security adviser. He noted that Abbas has indicated his intent to go the Security Council, but said Obama "has made it clear that we do not believe that that will lead to a Palestinian state, that we oppose such efforts."

Obama will also meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday.

The new approach would see the "quartet" of Mideast peace mediators—the U.S., European Union, United Nations and Russia—issue a statement addressing both Palestinian and Israeli concerns and setting a timetable for a return to the long-stalled peace talks, officials said.

Israel would have to accept its pre-1967 borders with land exchanges as the basis for a two-state solution, and the Palestinians would have to recognize Israel's Jewish character if they were to reach a deal quickly, officials close to the talks said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing diplomacy.

European officials, supported by the United States, were presenting the contours of a compromise agreement to the Israeli and Palestinian governments, and asking for tough concessions from each. Officials said several extremely challenging hurdles were leading to some pessimism as to whether mediators would be able to bring Israel and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table, with both sides being pressed to accept positions they've long deemed anathema to their visions of a two-state peace pact.

The difficult diplomacy reflected in some ways the intractability of a dispute that has foiled would-be peacemakers for decades, even though none of the actual elements of a final agreement was being discussed.

Quartet envoys met for a third straight day in New York to come up with a formula that would lead to direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The goal is to reach a comprehensive agreement that would address this week's three major issues, officials said.

The Palestinians would be allowed to deliver their letter of request Friday to the United Nations, but the Palestinians would not act on it for a year or would withdraw it at a later point. That would allow Abbas to save face and prevent an embarrassing defeat that might empower his party's rival faction, Hamas, which is considered a terrorist group by Israel and the United States.

The Palestinians could also go to the U.N. General Assembly, where they have overwhelming support, but would have to seek instead some form of intermediate upgrade that would stop short of a full recognition of statehood.

# Libyan graffiti artists make fun of Gadhafi

**TRIPOLI, Libya** (AP)—Libyan graffiti artists are taking advantage of newfound freedom to make fun of ousted leader Moammar Gadhafi on the streets of Tripoli.

For 42 years, the authoritarian leader banned writing or drawing on public walls. Artists are now expressing themselves throughout the capital of 2 million people, and their favorite topic is Gadhafi and other former members of his regime on storefronts and office buildings.

One picture mocks Gadhafi's habit of calling himself the king of kings of Africa by calling him the "monkey of monkeys of Africa."

Another shows the longtime leader's public relations officer Youssef Shakhir with a rat's tail and holding prayer beads, because people said he always held them in appearances.

Gadhafi, who remains on the run after revolutionary forces swept into Tripoli on Aug. 21, also is shown with his trademark curly hair, but the mural calls it "barbed wire hair" instead of using his popular nickname "frizzhead."

AP

A graffiti depicting Libya ousted Moammar Gadhafi saying in arabic "Go Ahead" is seen on a street in Tripoli, Libya, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011.

# Focus

# Soviet childhood: Journey from Lenin to the Bible

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

*Editor's Note: This autumn sees a slew of 20th anniversaries for the once mighty Soviet Union—a failed coup, the end of communist rule, and finally the breakup of the superpower itself. AP's Nataliya Vasilyeva reflects on her Soviet childhood and the epic final months of 1991.*

AP

This Sept. 1991 photo provided by the family shows AP reporter Nataliya Vasilyeva cycling in a park in southwest Moscow.

**MOSCOW** (AP)—In September 1991, when the Soviet Union was living out its final months, I was a first-grader with one thing on my mind: the red badge with the portrait of Vladimir Lenin as a toddler.

Accepting the badge of a Little Octoberist, a title honoring the October 1917 revolution led by Lenin, was the first rite of passage for every Soviet citizen, to be followed by membership in the Young Pioneers, the Communist Youth League and finally, for some, the Communist Party itself. This was the path to a good education and a successful career.

I was due to get my Lenin badge at the start of the second semester, but by then the Soviet Union was gone and with it the Communist symbols, heroes and ideals. Like many Soviet children, I lost sight of my future. My teachers were equally confused, no longer knowing what to teach. Even my family's favorite vacation spot was suddenly in a foreign land.

I could never imagine then that the rules I thought of as unbreakable would dissolve one by one over the next 20 years.

■■■

My early childhood was typical for a Soviet kid: a leafy kindergarten, summer holidays at the Black Sea, trips to the dacha, our house in the country. I never felt deprived, though looking back I see that life was not easy.

A small Lego set, a gift from a distant relative, was my favorite toy for years, because so little was available in Soviet stores. One Saturday morning my dad went to a big toy store near the Kremlin only to come back with a tiny rubber figurine of a creature we struggled to identify. It looked like a mixture of a bear, a cat and a hamster. I never figured out what it was supposed to be.

Cartoons on TV were so rare that your day was built around them. The newscasts I watched with my grandparents every night were about as exciting as a piece of wood. Factories, machinery, rolls of fabrics, workers—that's all I remember.

For food, my parents had "shopper cards" that worked like ration coupons. My and my brother's names were scribbled on the back so we wouldn't have to line up with our parents to get our share.

AP

This Aug. 8, 2011 photo shows a Little Octoberist badge in Moscow.

One year my mother received a pack of sugar cubes for Women's Day—a welcome gift since we had not had any for months.

Food shortages were even worse in Sevastopol, the Black Sea town where my family spent every summer. We used to take butter, sausages and other staples with us from Moscow. That may not sound like a perfect holiday, but Sevastopol, with its wide beaches and cypress groves, felt like the best place on Earth. It is in Ukraine, now a separate country, and I haven't been back since 1991.

One afternoon in the fall of 1991, my brother and his best friend came home from school with a big box. I was fascinated. English words were written on top; inside there was powdered milk and canned ham. My parents told me it was humanitarian aid sent from western European countries because they believed Russia to be on the brink of starvation. No one I knew was exactly starving, but no one felt insulted by the gesture either. The canned ham would be stored in the cellar at our dacha for a few more years.

Clothes too were in short supply. Like all children, I needed a uniform for school and my mother was clever enough to buy mine in early June, tipped off by a colleague who said more sizes were available then. It proved a wise investment.

The research institute where my mother worked gave parents a bonus in August as "school uniform compensation" to soften the blow of galloping prices. Having bought my uniform months before, my mother went to a jewelry shop and bought gold earrings instead.

The uniform I wore to school was little changed from those worn by my mother and grandmothers before me. It was a dark-brown dress with a starched white collar and white cuffs. A black apron was tied on, or a white one for holidays.

By the time I started school, it was clear that the Soviet Union's days were numbered. On Aug. 19, a group of Communist hardliners had tried to seize power, and the failure of their coup three days later only hastened the Soviet Union's collapse. One of the first acts of Russia's new leader, Boris Yeltsin, was to strip the ruling Communist Party of its powers.

All this might have been lost on a 7-year-old as it was happening, yet even on my first day of primary school, 10 days after the coup, I was struck by a feeling that something was badly missing. My kindergarten had abounded with Soviet symbols. A portrait of Lenin here, a red banner there. But now at school, the whitewashed walls had glaring blank spots where portraits of Communist leaders once hung.

Second-graders still wore the badges of Little Octoberists, also known as Lenin's grandchildren, and older children wore the red scarves of Young Pioneers. Those 14 and older already were members of the Communist Youth League, which had been necessary to get into a good university and improved one's career prospects.

I was supposed to receive my Little Octoberist badge in January 1992.

On Dec. 26, 1991, the Soviet Union formally ceased to exist.

When I returned to school after the New Year's holiday, the textbooks were still full of Communist songs, math problems about Young Pioneers and short stories about Lenin. But the teachers would either skip those exercises and stories, or use them without explaining the meaning of the Soviet terms.

Uniforms were no longer required; we could wear whatever we liked. Still, we hardly looked different from one another. Soviet-made consumer goods were of such poor quality and limited variety that we all ended up wearing the same styles and colors, usually brown and black. At least we could wear trousers, which previously were not permitted even in the coldest months.

AP

This Feb. 22, 2011 photo shows AP reporter Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow.

Our twenty- and thirty-something teachers did not indoctrinate us in the Soviet system—I suspect they were liberal-minded—but neither did they tell us the most basic things about our country, a sharp contrast to first-grade classes today in which teachers expound on the symbols and history of "our motherland."

With the school uniform abolished, my last hope of becoming a proud owner of a Little Octoberist badge was shattered. Instead, I received a colorful children's Bible as a first-grade graduation gift from the school's parents committee—an indication of the end of official atheism and the rise of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Indeed, since those confusing first-grade days, Russia has undergone an astounding transformation. For one, Russians started shedding their gloomy hues: first buying from traders who sold Turkish and Chinese clothes at outdoor markets, then in a consumer boom that has filled stores with international luxury brands.

Russians now travel the world freely, no longer needing official permission to leave the country.

But millions of people lost their jobs or saw their skills and knowledge lose value in the country's nascent market economy. Hundreds of thousands of middle-aged university graduates had to take up menial jobs, sweeping floors or driving buses.

The country's transformation was less hard on younger people in that sense.

My future looked dim in 1991, but the mist began to clear by late 1990s. Society was not giving away jobs as before, but I realized that even without friends or family in high place I could get on in life by working hard.

Without any party affiliation, I won a state scholarship to a Moscow university. It wasn't a top college by any means but, desperate to earn a better living than my parents, I hustled and landed a good job at a newspaper. It helped me to pay for a journalism course in London.

Twenty years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, I work for an American company, drive an American car and travel abroad on vacation as easily as my parents would have traveled to Sevastopol.

And I could not have imagined back then that I would struggle for two days to find someone who could lend me a Little Octoberist badge to photograph for this story.

# Environment

# Some loggerhead turtles now endangered

By CURTIS TATE
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—The Obama administration took steps Friday to protect the loggerhead sea turtle, downgrading the status of some populations from threatened to endangered.

The loggerhead has been listed as threatened since 1978, but a decline in habitat and population in several areas of the world led marine scientists to review the classification.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the change, under which the North Pacific population of turtles is among five groups to be listed as endangered. But the Northwest Atlantic population, which includes the southeast Atlantic and Gulf coasts, remains among four others listed as threatened.

"That's not good," said Doug Inkley, a senior wildlife biologist at the National Wildlife Federation in Reston, Va. "What this means is that all loggerhead sea turtles are threatened or endangered. We're going in the wrong direction."

The brownish-red turtles can weigh as much as 250 pounds and swim for thousands of miles. They don't start nesting until they're close to 30 years old; they can live to be 100.

Millions of children and their parents know the loggerhead from two characters in the animated film "Finding Nemo"—Crush, Nemo's surfer-dude friend, and his son, Squirt.

Inkley said he wasn't sure exactly why the classification didn't change for the Northwest Atlantic population of loggerhead turtles, since a lot of the discussion revolved around it.

"I find it interesting that only a year ago, NOAA proposed that this population be listed as endangered, yet somehow they changed their mind," he said. "It's a higher level of alertness and awareness. There are further restrictions on endangered species."

However, NOAA and the Fish and Wildlife Service can only take scientific information into account, Inkley said, excluding factors such as economic impact. But, he added, "Habitat is very much an issue."

Some environmentalists said the government's decision didn't go far enough.

"The failure to recognize Northwest Atlantic loggerheads are endangered ignores the massive impacts of the BP oil spill and increasing threats from shrimp trawl fisheries on this imperiled population," said Chris Pincetich, a marine biologist with the Sea Turtle Restoration Project of the Turtle Island Restoration Network. That group, the Center for Biological Diversity and Oceana all petitioned the government for increased protections for sea turtles in the North Pacific and Northwest Atlantic in 2007.

Loggerhead turtles still face many obstacles, Inkley said, including commercial fishing, habitat loss, marine debris and climate change. Commercial fishermen are required to use turtle excluder devices to prevent catching them unintentionally, but not everyone is abiding by the rule.

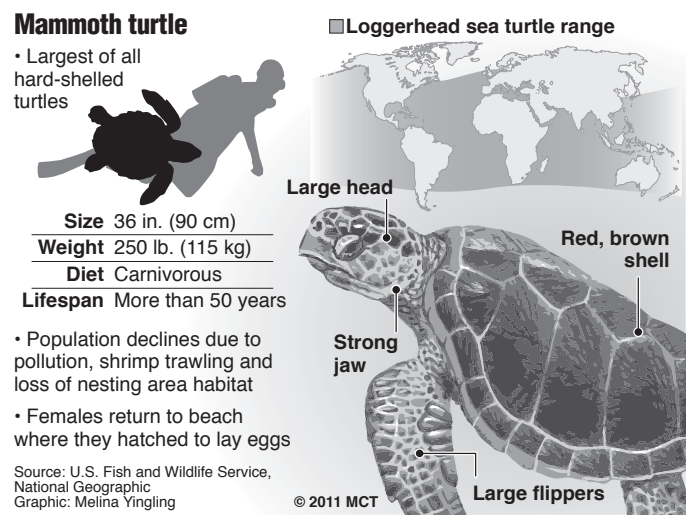
"While the incidental catch has gone down significantly, unfortunately, most of the continuing deaths are attributed to shrimp trawling," he said.

In explaining its decision, NOAA said some of the problems of unintentional turtle bycatch have been resolved with the turtle excluder devices on shrimp trawlers. Also, it said, the practice of long-line fishing, another problem for sea turtles, has declined amid decreasing fish stocks and a slow economy.

Those who reviewed the government's proposed changes said the Northwest Atlantic population is stable. "What we're seeing now is more of a flat line," said Sandy MacPherson, the Fish and Wildlife Service's national sea turtle coordinator.

## Protecting sea turtles

*Listing the loggerhead sea turtle as endangered would mean new restrictions on fishing and offshore drilling.*


Mammoth turtle
• Largest of all hard-shelled turtles
Size 36 in. (90 cm)
Weight 250 lb. (115 kg)
Diet Carnivorous
Lifespan More than 50 years
• Population declines due to pollution, shrimp trawling and loss of nesting area habitat
• Females return to beach where they hatched to lay eggs
Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Geographic
Graphic: Melina Yingling
Loggerhead sea turtle range
Large head
Red, brown shell
Strong jaw
Large flippers
© 2011 MCT

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

## 'The Navigators: Pathfinders of the Pacific'

In celebration of CNMI Humanities Month, First Friday Films is partnering with the NMI Council for the Humanities for a special showing of *The Navigators: Pathfinders of the Pacific* at 6:30pm on Oct. 7, 2011, at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center.

This film by anthropologist/filmmaker Sanford Low explores ancient navigational heritage in the tiny coral atoll of Satawal in Micronesia's remote Caroline Islands. In addition to interviews with the late Dr. Pius "Mau" Piailug in Satawal, *Navigators* discusses archaeology and accounts of explorers to examine the history of navigation and how traditional Pacific societies sustain this valuable cultural system.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series in partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups such as the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

The Pacific Historic Parks (formerly the Arizona Memorial Museum Association) Bookstore, located inside the Visitor's Center, will be open until 8:30pm. All proceeds go to community education programs.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 80 minutes long. As always, "First Friday Films" is free and open to the public. Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. ***(PR)***

# Five chemicals to avoid in food

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Food manufacturers aren't going to advertise the fact that controversial chemicals are actually in their food. If you want to be informed and eat better, here are five chemicals to avoid in food so you can eat without worry.

### 1) Sodium nitrates and sodium nitrites

These two similar ingredients are used in many processed meat products (think hot dogs, bacon, and lunch meats) because they act as food preservatives. However, both have been linked to different types of cancer. A better bet is to opt for meats labeled "nitrate-free" or "nitrite-free."

### 2) Aspartame

This artificial sweetener is found in thousands of diet drinks and foods. While it's been around for decades, it is one of the most controversial ingredients in our food chain. Some research suggests it is actually linked to many medical problems and even weight gain. Check with your doctor about making the switch to a new ingredient available known as Stevia. It's a natural zero-calorie sweetener that comes from the Stevia plant.

### 3) Certain food dyes and colorings

More and more parents are becoming increasingly concerned because of research that suggests food dyes are linked to hyperactivity in children. Think about all the artificially colored food items on the market such as juices, boxed foods, and bakery items. The safer choice is to avoid foods with numbered dyes on the ingredient list. Also, seek out organic foods, which don't contain synthetic food dyes and colorings.

### 4) BHA and BHT

Butylated Hydroxyanisole and Butylated Hydrozyttoluene are two similar additives that are common food preservatives. They work by preventing fats and oils from spoiling so you'll see them used in chips, cereals, and even chewing gums. The concern is that they may cause cancer or alter behavior. These additives aren't banned from foods but they do have to be on the label. Also, remember that it's usually 'junk food' that contains BHA or BHT.

### 5) Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)

While PFOA is not added to our foods, many of our foods are contaminated with it. That's because it's used in food packaging and cookware. This chemical is linked to cancer and once it's in your body, it can stay there for years. PFOA is used in many microwave popcorn bags and certain non-stick cookware. If you want to keep it out of the foods you eat, consider banning microwavable popcorn from your home and using non-toxic cookware such as glass or stainless steel.

Remember, eating better begins with knowing what you actually eat. Inspecting the ingredient list is always your first line of defense. And, when possible, go the organic route. It's another important way to Do Your Part to eat better while keeping unnecessary sometimes-dangerous chemicals out of our environment.

*Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.*

# Life & Style

AFTER 25 YEARS OF WEDDED BLISS

# Nick and Pamela renew marital vows

Manuel Cabaluna officiates the renewal of vows of Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa and wife Pamela, who are celebrating their silver wedding anniversary. CLARISSA V. DAVID

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa and wife Pamela marked 25 years of wedded bliss on Tuesday with a renewal of vows at the Hyatt's garden gazebo—an intimate ceremony witnessed by just a few family members, friends, and colleagues.

The couple, clad in matching island attire, renewed their vows in a ceremony officiated by Manuel Cabaluna. Reception immediately followed, with a cocktail menu specially prepared by executive chef Gabriele Colombo.

Malaysian native Pamela revealed that their love story started when they were both working at the Shangri-la owned Golden Sands Resort in Penang where she was employed as a telephonist while Nick was the sales manager. Their union gave birth to two daughters, one of whom is on the family way.

Family members, friends and colleagues of Nick and Pamela Nishikawa enjoy the reception. CLARISSA V. DAVID

"Nick has a very good heart," Pamela replied when asked what endeared Nick to her. "He's shown his good heart in so many ways. He is a good father and a good husband. He takes care of all of us."

Their silver wedding anniversary is indeed a special and meaningful day, according to both Pamela and Nick, who also said that Pamela's caring ways have made him love her more through the years.

Star Society band, Hyatt's in-house band, provides entertainment at the reception. CLARISSA V. DAVID

The couple poses with Watabe Wedding general manager Kentaro Egawa and wife Akiko. CLARISSA V. DAVID

The Nishikawa couple dances during the reception. CLARISSA V. DAVID

Nick and Pamela Nishikawa with their daughter Yumi and her boyfriend Shun Fukutomi. CLARISSA V. DAVID

"Twenty-five years of being married is a memorable event to celebrate. There were many ups and downs but it's very important for a family to get together and keep a tight relationship. We're very much happy to share this occasion with our family and colleagues," said Nick, who hails from Nagasaki.

Nick and his wife look forward to a complete family celebration of their anniversary once their other daughter arrives in November from Australia. "By then, our family is complete and we will celebrate the occasion."

When asked what their secret is to a successful marriage, both husband and the wife replied "patience" and "God."

"Marriage is always a struggle. For every married couple, there is always the good and the bad but the main important thing is to have God in your life. Your faith in God can help keep the marriage going," Pamela told *Saipan Tribune* after the ceremony.

Hyatt executive chef Colombo said the food selection are some of the Nishikawa couple's favorites, which included crepe with smoked salmon and sour cream, parma with bread, chicken *kelaguen* and *titiyas*, tuna *tatake*, Malaysian spring roll, spinach bacon tart, macaroon and coconut tartlet.

Hyatt's Star Society Band provided background entertainment.

The ceremony was coordinated by Watabe Wedding. Branch manager Ayumi Hiramine disclosed that this is the first time that their company organized a ceremony for renewal of wedding vows.

"We thought it's a great way to better promote Saipan to tourists as both a wedding and a wedding anniversary destination," she said.

Hiramine said the opportunity came when Nick and Watabe Wedding general manager Kentaro Egawa, who have a very good relationship, talked about doing the ceremony during Hyatt's 30th anniversary party.

Watabe Wedding, Hiramine said, started coordinating weddings on Saipan in 1994. These weddings are normally held in chapels of different hotels on island.

Previously, 95 percent of their clients were Japanese, Hiramine said. These days, Chinese tourists take up about 10 percent of their market, with a few local couples now and then.

"We hope that Mr. and Mrs. Nishikawa's renewal of vows will encourage more tourists to celebrate their wedding anniversaries here on Saipan. We're also very happy that we made Mr. and Mrs. Nishikawa happy on their special day," she added.

The couple is flanked by staff of Hyatt Regency Saipan. CLARISSA V. DAVID

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Straw Dogs
Friday 4:20 7:20 10:00
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 10:00
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
James Marsden, Kate Bosworth
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
A Hollywood screenwriter and his wife come under attack from her ex-flame and his vicious friends in director Rod Lurie's remake of Sam Peckinpah's 1971 home-invasion classic. In the wake of her father's death, Amy (Kate Bosworth) returns to her rural Southern hometown with her husband, David (James Marsden). Her goal is to put her childhood home on the market while David works on his latest screenplay. Meanwhile, David hires Amy's high school boyfriend Charlie (Alexander Skarsgård) and his crew to rebuild the roof on the secluded country home.

Drive
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Ryan Gosling, Carey Mulligan
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
Director Nicolas Winding Refn (The Pusher Trilogy, Bronson) teams with screenwriter Hossein Amini to adapt author James Sallis' novel about a lone-wolf Hollywood stunt driver who moonlights as a criminal getaway driver. When the lightning-fast wheelman (Ryan Gosling) incurs the wrath of L.A.'s most dangerous criminal (Albert Brooks), the only way out of the mess is to put the pedal to the metal. Carey Mulligan, Bryan Cranston, Christina Hendricks, and Ron Perlman co-star.

I Don't Know How She Does It
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Sarah Jessica Parker, Pierce Brosnan
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Contagion
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Matt Damon, Marion Cottilard
Action • Rated PG 13

Shark Night 2D
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Sinqua Walls, Chris Carmack
Horror • Rated PG 13

Conan The Barbarian
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Jason Momoa, Rachel Nichols
Action Fantasy • Rated R

Spy Kids: All The Time In The World
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Jessica Alba, Joel McHale
Spy film, Adventure • Rated PG

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# MacArthur Foundation names 2011 'genius grants'

By CARYN ROUSSEAU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CHICAGO** (AP)—A Chicago skyscraper architect, a New York City children's choir founder and a North Carolina scientist who studies how to prevent sports-related concussions are among the latest 22 recipients of the no-strings-attached MacArthur Foundation "genius grants."

The $500,000 fellowships for 2011 were announced Tuesday by the Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Recipients largely don't know they're in contention for the annual awards, and often learn they're winners with an out-of-the-blue phone call informing them they'll receive the money over the next five years.

"I was dumbfounded, I actually cried," said Francisco J. Nunez, 46, founder of the Young People's Chorus of New York City. Nunez finished what he called a "very strenuous" board meeting when he received a call from a phone number he didn't recognize.

"I get this call from a gentleman," Nunez said. "He tells me to tell whoever I'm with to leave and go into a private room. Next thing I know I have to sit down at my desk. I started shaking."

Recipients can spend the money however they like, but many like Nunez say the honor of the fellowship makes them focus on what they would accomplish in their fields if only they had the means. And now they do. His group's many choir programs have more than 1,000 young singers.

"I feel like I have an opportunity here and a challenge to figure out something really great," he said. The foundation cited him for "shaping the future of choral singing for children."

Even though they're referred to as the "genius grants," MacArthur Foundation President Robert Gallucci said the more attractive quality is creativity.

"We hope we're giving these people an opportunity they wouldn't otherwise have to pursue their area or interest and let that spirit that has driven them to be free to accomplish more in the future," Gallucci said. "We're aiming here at the future."

As in previous years, a wide variety of fields are represented on the list of recipients, including both arts and sciences. This year's list includes a former U.S. poet laureate, an elder rights lawyer, an evolutionary geneticist, a jazz percussionist, a cellist and a developmental biologist.

The foundation relies on hundreds of anonymous nominators to offer names to be put in contention for the grants. Nominations only are accepted from the list of anonymous nominators. Recipients often say they have no idea who nominated them. Names are then given to a selection committee of about a dozen anonymous members. They meet regularly to review nominations, narrow the list and then make final recommendations to the MacArthur Foundation's board of directors.

Including this year's recipients the MacArthur Foundation has awarded 850 genius grants since 1981.

See MCARTHUR On Next Page

## 'GENIUS GRANT' RECIPIENTS

**CHICAGO** (AP)—The following 22 fellows each will receive $500,000 over the next five years from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation:

**—Jad Abumrad, 38, New York**
Radio co-host and producer of the nationally syndicated WNYC program "Radiolab."

**—Marie-Therese Connolly, 54, Washington**
Lawyer who works to combat physical and psychological elder abuse and mistreatment, and elder financial exploitation.

**—Roland Fryer, 34, Cambridge, Massachusetts**
Harvard University economics professor who studies causes and consequences of economic disparity due to race and inequality.

**—Jeanne Gang, 47, Chicago**
Architect focusing on the geographic, social and environmental factors of residential, educational and commercial buildings.

**—Elodie Ghedin, 44, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**
Parasitologist and assistant professor at University of Pittsburg School of Medicine who studies genetic sequencing techniques.

**—Markus Greiner, 38, Cambridge, Massachusetts**
Harvard University associate professor of physics and condensed matter physicist.

**—Kevin Guskiewicz, 45, Chapel Hill, North Carolina**
Sports medicine researcher and University of North Carolina professor of exercise and sports science specializing in diagnosis, treatment and prevention of sports-related concussions.

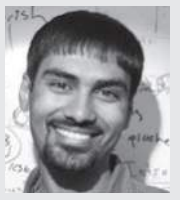
**—Peter Hessler, 42, Colorado**
Long-form journalist whose work explores life in Reform Era China.

**—Tiya Miles, 41, Ann Arbor, Michigan**
University of Michigan history professor who studies relationships between African and Cherokee people living and working in colonial America.

**—Matthew Nock, 38, Cambridge, Massachusetts**
Clinical psychologist and Harvard University psychology professor whose work focuses on suicide and self-injury in adolescents and adults.

**—Francisco Nunez, 46, New York**
Choral conductor, composer and founder and artistic director of the Young People's Chorus of New York City.

**—Sarah Otto, 43, Vancouver, British Columbia**
University of British Columbia professor and evolutionary geneticist.



**—Shwetak Patel, 29, Seattle**
Sensor technologist, computer scientist and assistant professor at the University of Washington.

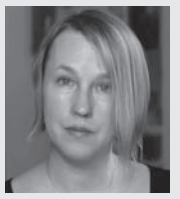
**—Dafnis Prieto, 37, New York**
Jazz percussionist and composer with classical training and Afro-Cuban musical heritage.

**—Kay Ryan, 65, Fairfax, California**
Former Poet Laureate of the United States and author of eight volumes of poetry.

**—Melanie Sanford, 36, Ann Arbor, Michigan**
Organometallic chemist and University of Michigan professor of chemistry.

**—William Seeley, 39, San Francisco**
University of California associate professor and neuropathologist who studies human neurodegenerative disease.

**—Jacob Soll, 42, New Jersey**
Rutgers University history professor whose work encompasses early modern Europe.



**—A.E. Stallings, 43, Athens, Greece**
Director of the poetry program at the Athens Centre, poet and translator.

**—Ubaldo Vitali, 67, New Jersey**
Fourth-generation silversmith, conservator and scholar who restores silver masterworks and creates original art.

**—Alisa Weilerstein, 29, New York**
Cellist who performs traditional and contemporary music.

**—Yukiko Yamashita, 39, Ann Arbor, Michigan**
University of Michigan Medical School assistant professor and developmental biologist studying stem cell division.

# Kutcher sets sitcom record; Sheen roast a big draw

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Both Ashton Kutcher and Charlie Sheen have something to brag about during their big nights on television.

Kutcher's debut as Sheen's replacement in the CBS sitcom "Two and a Half Men" was seen by 28.7 million people on Monday. The Nielsen Co. said Tuesday that was more than any other episode in the show's first eight seasons, when Sheen was the star.

The sitcom's previous best came in May 2005 following the final episode of "Everybody Loves Raymond."

Meanwhile, Sheen appeared Monday as the "victim" of a Comedy Central roast that reached 6.4 million people. That is the second most-watched telecast in the cable network's history, behind only Jeff Dunham's holiday special in 2008.

The season-opening episode of "Two and a Half Men," television's most popular comedy, was much anticipated. Producers kept it a secret how they would kill off Sheen's character and introduce Kutcher's.

Sheen had been fired from the show last season for drug use and erratic behavior. He launched a weekslong tirade against his bosses, including show creator Chuck Lorre, and Lorre got revenge in Monday's episode.

Sheen's Charlie Harper character was killed when he was hit by a subway train in Paris.

Meanwhile, Kutcher appeared as an Internet billionaire unsuccessful in a suicide attempt over a crumbled relationship. He fell right into the show's randy ways, picking up two women during a bar visit that same night.

The success of "Two and a Half Men" gave a boost to the premiere of CBS' new comedy "2 Broke Girls" that followed it. That show had an audience of 19.4 million, the largest audience for a fall sitcom premiere since "Inside Schwartz" a decade ago.

The veteran CBS comedy "How I Met Your Mother" had its best season premiere numbers. By contrast, the season premiere of "Hawaii Five-0" had a relatively modest audience of 12 million.

AP

In this image released by CBS, Jon Cryer portrays Alan Harper, left, and Ashton Kutcher portrays Walden Schmidt in Kutcher's debut on the CBS comedy "Two and a Half Men," which aired Monday, Sept. 19, 2011.

# Paris Hilton finishes probation in Vegas drug case

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Paris Hilton is wrapping up a year of probation stemming from a 2010 drug arrest on the Las Vegas Strip.

Officials say Hilton's attorneys appeared in court Tuesday on the 30-year-old celebrity socialite's behalf to show Hilton had completed her obligations to the court. She had to pay a $2,000 fine and serve 200 hours of community service in addition to probation.

Hilton pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of drug possession and obstructing an officer after police pulled over her and her then-boyfriend on Aug. 26, 2010.

Police say they detected a "vapor trail" of marijuana smoke wafting from the couple's vehicle.

Hilton was arrested when a bag containing 0.8 of a gram of cocaine fell from her purse as she reached for lip balm in front of an officer.

# First celeb bounced from 'Dancing with the Stars'

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—"Dancing with the Stars" viewers didn't give Metta World Peace a chance.

The basketball star formerly known as Ron Artest was the first celebrity ejected Tuesday from the 13th edition of the ABC dancing competition. The show's judges gave World Peace the lowest score on Monday's premiere: 14 out of a possible 30.

The outgoing Los Angeles Lakers forward was locked out after viewer votes were combined with the judges' scores.

"All I want to know is who's coming with me?" he joyfully shouted after his dismissal.

Len Goodman, the show's head judge, said World Peace's cha-cha with professional partner Peta Murgatroyd was "all sizzle and no sausage" and his footwork in the ballroom was "atrocious."

For his debut performance, the over-the-top athlete bared his chest in a shimmering gold vest and shaved the Hebrew words for "world peace" into the side of his head.

The 11 celebrities remaining in the competition are World Cup soccer player Hope Solo; reality stars Robert Kardashian and Kristin Cavallari; TV personalities Nancy Grace, Carson Kressley and Ricki Lake; actors David Arquette and J.R. Martinez; Italian actress Elisabetta Canalis; singer Chynna Phillips; and author and activist Chaz Bono.

# Sizemore arrested on battery warrant

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Los Angeles police say they have arrested actor Tom Sizemore on an outstanding warrant for misdemeanor battery.

Officer Rosario Herrera says the 49-year-old was arrested early Tuesday. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department website says Sizemore has posted $26,000 bail and has been released.

A phone message left for his agent, Cynthia Booth, was not immediately returned.

Sizemore, who appeared in "Black Hawk Down" and "Saving Private Ryan," has had a string of drug-related arrests in recent years.

## MCARTHUR

*From Page 20*

Jeanne Gang, 47, was the architect of Chicago's 82-story Aqua Tower and her firm, Studio Gang, puts a focus on green building and sustainable design. MacArthur cited Gang's designs for challenging "the aesthetic and technical possibilities of the art form." Gang said she will put together a plan for the grant money and methodically follow it.

"I've always tried to maintain a very experimental side and research side of our practice," Gang said. "[The grant] will feed into our research, our prototyping, our creativity."

Kevin Guskiewicz's studies at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill have made strides in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of sports-related concussions. Guskiewicz, 45, said he wants to use some of the grant money to develop rehabilitation plans for athletes and soldiers who suffer concussions. The foundation noted Guskiewicz's combination of laboratory and on-the-field investigations to further his research.

"It's sort of like piecing together a puzzle," he said. "We still have several more pieces of the puzzle to put in place."

Some MacArthur money could go to the ECO Girls project in southeastern Michigan. Tiya Miles, 41, started the project when she was on sabbatical from her job as a history professor at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The environmental mentorship program connects urban girls with college students, she said.

"We've been getting some small grants, but I didn't know how I was going to fund this project," Miles said.

Miles' scholarship focuses on the history and legacy of slavery in the U.S. and the relationships between African and Cherokee people in early America. The foundation said Miles is "reframing and reinterpreting the history of our diverse nation." The grant money affords her the luxury of taking time to think and reflect on her future, Miles said.

"I have lots of plans that I could imagine," she said.

# Readers differ on cemeteries as places to pray and to play

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

**DEAR ABBY:** I am writing in response to the letter you printed from "Respectful in Ohio" (July 25). I am so glad you addressed the subject of proper etiquette in cemeteries. The cemetery where my family members are buried has become a playground for the neighbors in the area. When I visit, I see people walking their dogs on and off leashes even though they are aware of the "No Dogs Allowed" signs. Children are bicycling, rollerblading and skateboarding, along with joggers and walkers.

I come to the cemetery to visit with my lost loved ones and tend to their graves. I find it disgusting and disturbing that these folks are using our sacred place for their personal pleasures. Abby, thank you so much for your wisdom on this matter.

JEAN C. IN MASSACHUSETTS

**DEAR JEAN: Thank you for agreeing with me. However, some readers felt differently, believing that cemeteries are for the living as well as the dead. My newspaper readers comment:**

DEAR ABBY: You should know that there is a trend where groups of dog walkers are taking over the care of deteriorating cemeteries. In return for cleaning up, restoring and maintaining graveyards, dog walkers are given permission to walk and run their dogs there.

Some readers may find this practice disrespectful, but it has resulted in many cemeteries being restored to the beauty and dignity its occupants deserve.

CARLA IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR ABBY:** When I read the letter from "Respectful," it took me back a few years. As I was mowing in the town cemetery, I went around a gravestone into some tall grass and my mower stalled. When I turned it over to see what I had hit, I found a pair of pantyhose wrapped around the blade of the mower. Apparently, cemeteries are sometimes used as a lover's lane. I agree with you about practicing good behavior in places like these. But I'll always laugh recalling what happened to me. I wonder if the lady who forgot her hose that night caught a cold.

GROUNDSKEEPER

**DEAR ABBY:** I have to disagree with you and "Respectful." One needs to have a historical perspective about cemeteries and their place in our culture. Prior to the advent of public parks in the late 19th century, the only open, park-like setting in most communities was the local cemetery. People would stroll the lawns, picnic and socialize there.

Today, some cemeteries even conduct historical and nature tours. While I don't condone rowdy behavior, it's wrong to think they are simply for the dead and mourning. Many families of our fallen soldiers go to Arlington Cemetery to picnic and visit their loved ones.

Cemeteries fall into disrepair when they are not active and filled with living hikers, bikers, bird watchers, etc. Let's encourage people to visit their local cemetery. The alternative is to allow them to go to seed and disappear from our landscape.

PATRICK H., OHIO

**DEAR ABBY:** Several years ago in a nearby church cemetery, a young couple and their 4-year-old were putting flowers on a relative's grave. The child got a bit antsy and climbed on a headstone. The stone was loose and tipped over onto the child and killed him. No one should let children play in a cemetery.

JAN IN SARTELL, MINN.

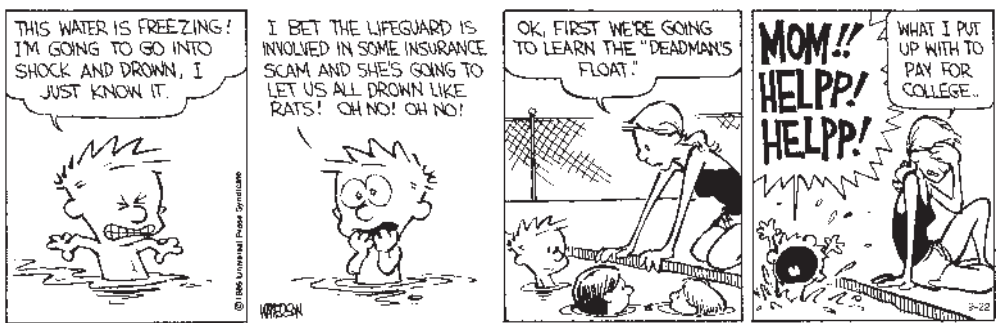
**DEAR ABBY:** I want children to play on my grave. What could be better than spending eternity listening to the laughter of children? As for dogs, unless you are going to diaper all the pigeons, dogs are the least of my worries!

ALANSON IN NEW JERSEY

# Pastimes

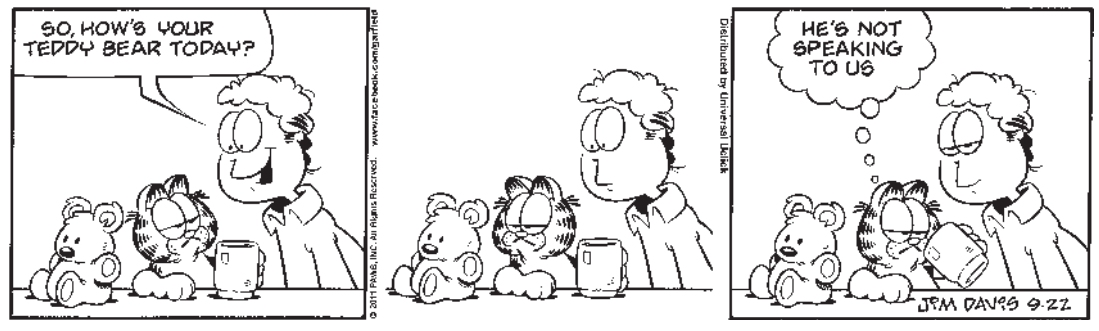
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THIS WATER IS FREEZING! I'M GOING TO GO INTO SHOCK AND DROWN, I JUST KNOW IT.
I BET THE LIFEGUARD IS INVOLVED IN SOME INSURANCE SCAM AND SHE'S GOING TO LET US ALL DROWN LIKE RATS! OH NO! OH NO!
OK, FIRST WE'RE GOING TO LEARN THE "DEADMAN'S FLOAT."
MOM!! HELPP! HELPP!
WHAT I PUT UP WITH TO PAY FOR COLLEGE...

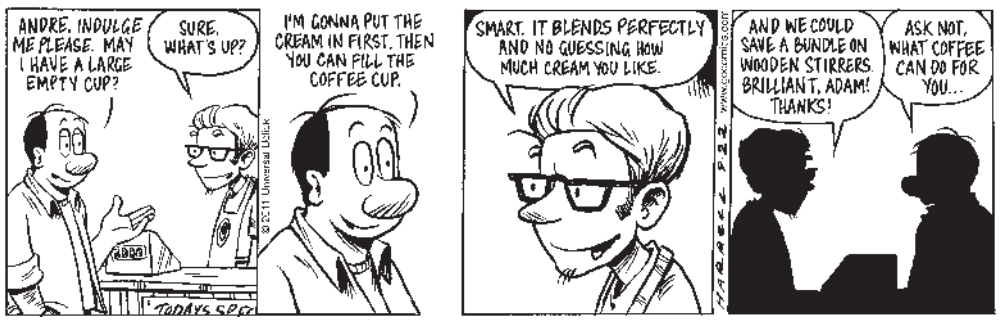
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis




## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ANDRE, INDULGE ME PLEASE. MAY I HAVE A LARGE EMPTY CUP?
SURE, WHAT'S UP?
I'M GONNA PUT THE CREAM IN FIRST, THEN YOU CAN FILL THE COFFEE CUP.
SMART. IT BLENDS PERFECTLY AND NO GUESSING HOW MUCH CREAM YOU LIKE.
AND WE COULD SAVE A BUNDLE ON WOODEN STIRRERS. BRILLIANT, ADAM! THANKS!
ASK NOT, WHAT COFFEE CAN DO FOR YOU...

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'M BREAKING UP, ENO. YOU'RE NOT ASSERTIVE ENOUGH! I NEED A REAL MAN!
GO ON! GET OUT OF HERE!! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!!
HEY, THIS IS MY HOUSE!

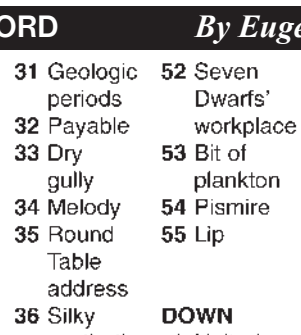
## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

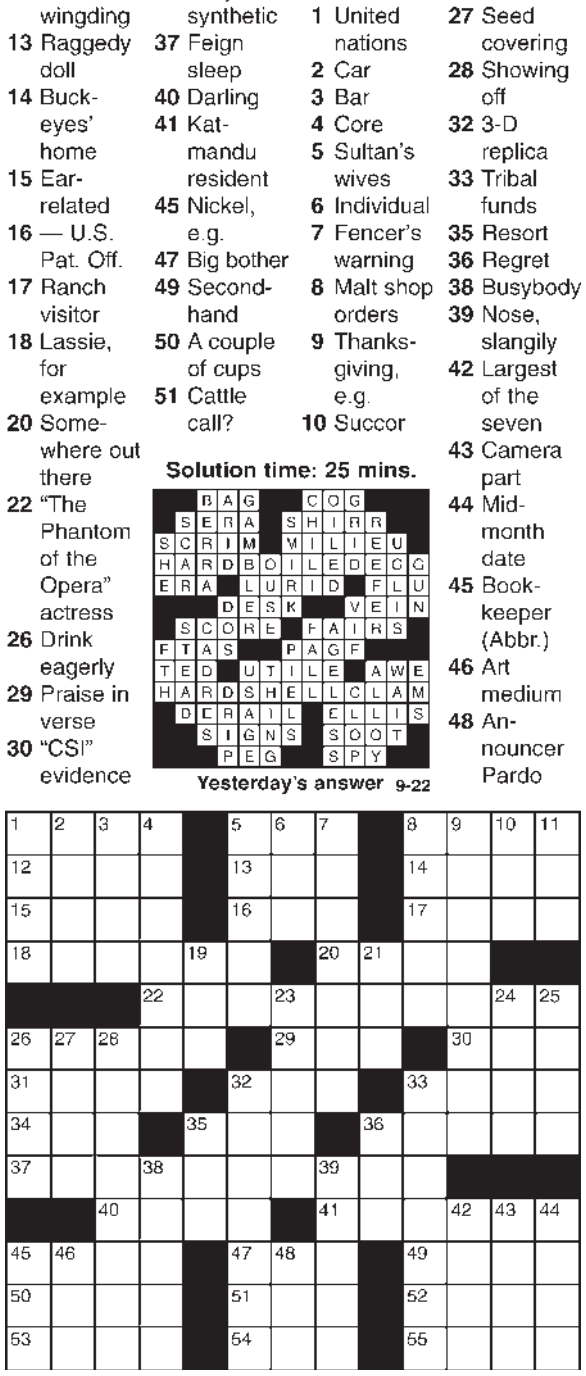
**ACROSS**
1 Farm building
5 Weeding tool
8 Constellation component
12 Waikiki wingding
13 Raggedy doll
14 Buck-eyes' home
15 Ear-related
16 — U.S. Pat. Off.
17 Ranch visitor
18 Lassie, for example
20 Somewhere out there
22 "The Phantom of the Opera" actress
26 Drink eagerly
29 Praise in verse
30 "CSI" evidence
31 Geologic periods
32 Payable
33 Dry gully
34 Melody
35 Round Table address
36 Silky synthetic
37 Feign sleep
40 Darling
41 Katmandu resident
45 Nickel, e.g.
47 Big bother
49 Second-hand
50 A couple of cups
51 Cattle call?
52 Seven Dwarfs' workplace
53 Bit of plankton
54 Pismire
55 Lip

**DOWN**
1 United nations
2 Car
3 Bar
4 Core
5 Sultan's wives
6 Individual
7 Fencer's warning
8 Malt shop orders
9 Thanksgiving, e.g.
10 Succor
11 Shad product
19 Mischievous tyke
21 Adversary
23 Thine
24 Loosen
25 Primary
26 Bound
27 Seed covering
28 Showing off
32 3-D replica
33 Tribal funds
35 Resort
36 Regret
38 Busybody
39 Nose, slangily
42 Largest of the seven
43 Camera part
44 Mid-month date
45 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
46 Art medium
48 Announcer Pardo

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-22



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Bonnie Hunt, 50; Scott Baio, 51; Andrea Bocelli, 53; Joan Jett, 53.

**Happy Birthday**: You have a bright future if you are willing to make changes. Stop feeling responsible for everyone else and take care of your own needs. This is the year to branch out and follow your own path. Call in favors and strive to invest in yourself rather than others. Another's misfortune can be your gain. Your numbers are 5, 12, 23, 28, 34, 39, 43.

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Challenge and stimulation will help revive your body and mind. Get involved in activities that allow you to explore new territory, mentally and physically. Encourage and welcome change. It's the outer aspects of life that need to be revamped. ✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Put more power behind you and motor on to victory. It's what you do that will count, not what you allude to doing. Anger wastes time and resolves nothing. Learn by past mistakes. Don't neglect what's most important to you this time. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Listen to constructive criticism and do what it takes to correct what's wrong. Spend time and money on you and improve your image. Don't overreact when you should be learning and doing your best. Change will lead to a better you and a better life. ✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Don't waste time complaining about added responsibilities; if you are organized, you can fit everything in as planned. Call in favors and avoid an emotional display that may embarrass you later. A change of heart will also change your direction. ✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let anyone take advantage of your generosity or kindness. Your urge to take action should be focused on getting work done and making changes to head in a more suitable direction. Don't overreact. Protect your own interests, subtly. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A team effort will bring you closer to people you share interests with and help you acquire valuable knowledge. Your ability to assess a situation practically will be impressive and bring you added respect. Contribute, but don't overdo it. ✪✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll make things difficult if you take on too many responsibilities. You may want to keep the peace and help everyone, but you have to protect your status and emotional well-being. A residential change can be beneficial, if you are practical. ✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let anxiety kick in and ruin your rhythm. Be calculating and precise, in order to avoid costly setbacks. Look for opportunities to utilize experience favors that you are owed. Your knowledge will be the key to your future. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your mind will be in overdrive, but you must look at change carefully and assess whether you are making moves for the right reasons. The grass may look greener on the other side, but chances are it's the same. Look before you leap. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Everything will revolve around the way you get along with others and how you treat financial matters. Opportunity will develop through fair discussions and equal effort. Improve your living quarters, but do it yourself and stick to a tight budget. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put your plan in place. You will have good fortune regarding work and money. Diversify your skills to better suit the positions offered. Love is in the stars. A partnership with someone special can make your life less stressful. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Communicate with those around you to clear up misunderstandings and help you prioritize. Don't overreact if someone doesn't agree with you. Consider going your separate ways. Do something enjoyable and you'll meet someone special. ✪✪✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are a unique, compassionate and nurturing helper. You are action-oriented and opportunistic.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

# SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6 | | | | | | 9 | |
| 4 | 5 | | | 2 | | | 1 | 6 |
| | | | 9 | | 3 | | | |
| | | 1 | | | | 7 | | |
| | 8 | | | | | | 2 | |
| | | 2 | | | | 6 | | |
| | | | 4 | | 7 | | | |
| 2 | 3 | | | 5 | | | 8 | 4 |
| | 9 | | | | | | 5 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 8 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| 1 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| 2 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/21

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**LOUIS VUITTON** **Solution: 7 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | B | S | T | E | L | L | A | W | O | R | K | K | W | E |
| O | O | R | D | R | E | S | S | H | I | R | T | E | O | S |
| K | O | C | A | F | A | S | H | I | O | N | G | Y | M | A |
| E | K | E | K | C | O | V | E | R | M | L | O | R | E | V |
| R | S | L | R | E | E | G | E | O | E | B | L | L | N | E |
| C | N | L | A | S | T | L | N | L | S | E | F | E | A | S |
| A | I | T | E | M | S | O | E | U | R | L | R | W | F | P |
| R | P | O | W | E | G | V | R | T | U | T | A | E | D | A |
| D | H | G | T | R | A | E | I | G | P | S | M | J | N | S |
| S | E | S | A | C | B | S | A | T | A | H | E | G | A | C |
| S | P | M | U | P | A | B | H | N | O | N | S | T | H | O |
| O | E | T | O | N | O | C | D | L | O | L | I | A | O | O |
| A | B | F | G | O | T | A | D | H | E | N | R | Z | E | T |
| P | O | O | T | A | L | E | P | E | N | Ⓜ | Ⓐ | Ⓓ | Ⓔ | E |
| S | R | S | W | S | R | W | H | I | S | K | Y | B | A | R |

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**Yesterday's Answer: Keepsake**

SALE! The topics of "Wonderword's Kids" appeal to younger fans but are equally challenging for grown-ups. We've come to expect from Wonderword a home in the bookstore for us. $1 each, plus $3.95 for the first book for postage for the first book order. $1.95 for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480.

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# Yankees beat Rays to move closer to playoffs

NEW YORK (AP) — Ivan Nova pitched cleanly into the eighth inning, Curtis Granderson drove in four runs and the New York Yankees moved within one win of a playoff berth by beating the Tampa Bay Rays 5-0 on Tuesday night.

Granderson hit a three-run double and reached base four times, boosting his MVP credentials as the Yankees slowed Tampa Bay's charge at rival Boston in the AL wild-card race. New York can secure its 16th postseason trip in 17 years with one victory in Wednesday's day-night doubleheader against the Rays.

The AL East leaders have a six-game lead over second-place Boston, their largest of the season.

Tampa Bay remained two games behind the Red Sox for the AL wild card.

### Orioles 7, Red Sox 5

In Boston, Robert Andino's three-run double in the eighth inning gave the Orioles a win and ruined the Red Sox's chance to extend its two-game lead in the AL wild-card race.

Andino's winning hit came off Jonathan Papelbon, who had gone 21 games since last allowing a run on July 16. It was his second blown save of the season.

The Red Sox seemed headed for a three-game, wild-card lead over Tampa Bay, which lost to the New York Yankees 5-0 on Tuesday. But their struggles continued as they fell to 4-13 since leading the Rays by nine games on Sept. 3. Boston has seven games remaining and Tampa Bay has nine.

### Indians 4, White Sox 3, 1st Game
### White Sox 5, Indians 4, 2nd Game

In Cleveland, Alexei Ramirez's seventh-inning single broke a deadlock and led Chicago to a win over the Indians, giving the White Sox a split of the day-night doubleheader.

Asdrubal Cabrera's solo home run and six strong innings from Fausto Carmona gave Cleveland a victory in the first game.

The teams, who were eliminated from the AL Central race last week when Detroit clinched the division, are battling for second place. The Indians lead the White Sox by 1Ω games.

Matt Thornton (2-5) pitched 1 1-3 innings for the win in the second game and Chris Sale went the final 1 2-3 innings for his seventh save.

Cleveland took a 4-3 lead into the seventh before Chicago rallied against rookie reliever Zach Putnam (0-1).

### Angels 10, Blue Jays 6

In Toronto, Mark Trumbo hit a three-run homer, Vernon Wells added a solo shot as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Toronto Blue Jays 10-6.

Trumbo went 2 for 5 with four RBIs and Erick Aybar stole home as the Angels kept their faint postseason hopes alive. Los Angeles started the night five games behind Texas in the AL West, and 4 1/2 games behind Boston in the wild card race.

Joel Pineiro (7-7) allowed four runs and nine hits in six-plus innings to win for the second time in three starts. He walked two and struck out three.

Rich Thompson, Bobby Cassevah each worked one inning of relief, Garrett Richards got two outs in the ninth and Scott Downs finished for his first save.

### Royals 10, Tigers 2

In Kansas City, Eric Hosmer went 5 for 5 with a three-run homer and Luis Mendoza got his first major league win in more than three years in the Royals' win over the Tigers.

Hosmer's five-hit game was the first by a Royals player since Billy Butler on July 27, 2009.

Mendoza held the Tigers to two runs, one unearned, and six hits in seven innings in his first big league appearance since April 19, 2010.

Mendoza (1-0) got his first major league victory since Aug. 3, 2008 while with the Texas Rangers, an 8-4 decision over Toronto.

### Mariners 5, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Mike Carp had five hits, Adam Kennedy hit a tiebreaking infield single in the seventh inning and the Mariners beat the Twins, sending Minnesota to its 10th straight loss.

The Twins haven't had a 10 game losing streak since September 1998.

Jason Vargas (9-13) pitched six innings, allowing nine hits and four runs, though only three were earned. Alex Liddi hit his second career homer for Seattle.

The Twins loaded the bases with no outs in the ninth against closer Brandon League, but League managed to convert his 35th save in 40 chances on a strikeout and pair of groundouts.

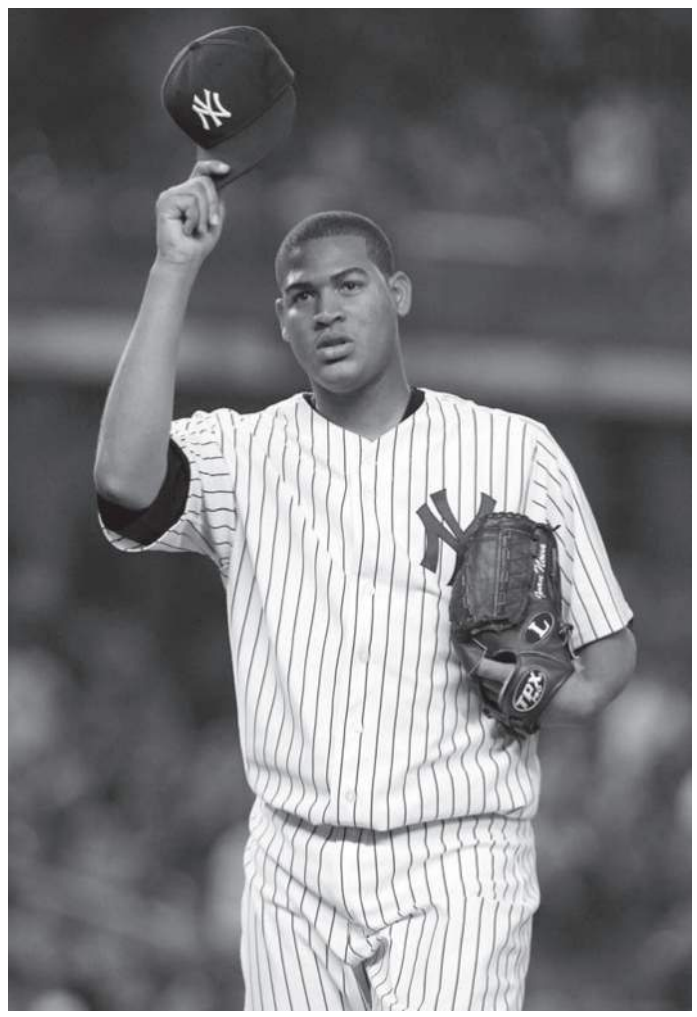
Brian Duensing (9-14) gave up one run in relief for Minnesota.

### Rangers 7, Athletics 2

In Oakland, California, Adrian Beltre hit a three-run homer in the first to lead the AL West-leading Rangers over the Athletics.

Michael Young hit an RBI single in the third that gave him 200 hits for the sixth season and drove in another run in the eighth, Mike Napoli also singled in a run and Texas won for the eighth time in 10 games.

The first-place Rangers maintained their five-game division lead over Los Angeles after the Angels won 10-6 at Toronto. Reigning AL champion Texas is 12-5 in September. The Rangers magic number to win the AL West is down to four.



AP

New York Yankees starting pitcher Ivan Nova tips his hat to the crowd as he leaves the baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays during the eighth inning Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Rookie Michael Taylor hit his first major league home run in the fifth—his 18th career at-bat—for Oakland's lone run against Derek Holland (15-5), who won his fourth straight decision.

### Nationals 3, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Ross Detwiler outpitched Cliff Lee by tossing 7 1-3 impressive innings and Washington beat NL East champion Philadelphia to complete a sweep of their day-night doubleheader.

In the opener, Tommy Milone threw six scoreless innings and pinch-hitter Ryan Zimmerman delivered an RBI single in the 10th to lift the Nationals to a 4-3 victory.

Detwiler (3-5) allowed three hits in his longest career outing. The left-hander earned his first road win after going 0-9 in his first 12 starts away from home.

Lee (16-8) gave up three runs—two earned—and 11 hits, striking out nine in seven innings. It was his first loss since July 25.

The Phillies have lost four straight since clinching their fifth consecutive division crown. The Nationals have won nine of 12.

Drew Storen finished off the three-hitter for his second save of the day and 40th this season.

Danny Espinosa hit his 20th homer for the Nationals.

Milone allowed four hits, struck out two and walked none.

Pinch-hitter Michael Morse sparked Washington's winning rally with a two-out walk in the 10th. He moved up on a passed ball and scored when Zimmerman singled off Michael Stutes (6-2).

Tom Gorzelanny (4-6) worked the ninth for the victory.

### Braves 4, Marlins 0

In Miami, rookie Randall Delgado pitched five innings for his first major-league win and Atlanta put the brakes on their recent poor form.

The Braves still lead St. Louis by 2 1/2 games in the NL wild-card race after blowing a ninth-inning lead to lose Monday. The margin was 10 1/2 games on Aug. 25.

Delgado (1-1), making his sixth career start, pitched around five hits and lowered his ERA to 2.70. Cristhian Martinez and Anthony Vavaro both retired six consecutive batters to complete the 16th shutout for the Braves, which ties for third-most in the majors.

Freddie Freeman hit his 20th home run for the Braves, who won for only the seventh time in their past 19 games. Alex Gonzalez hit his 15th homer but left the game in the sixth inning with a strained right calf.

Anibal Sanchez (8-9) lost to the Braves for the third time in as many starts this year, allowing three runs in five innings.

### Brewers 5, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Shaun Marcum threw eight strong innings as Milwaukee edged closer to the NL Central title.

Marcum (13-7) allowed five hits and one run and struck out seven. He doubled and scored during Milwaukee's four-run third inning.

Rickie Weeks drove in two runs and Nyjer Morgan reached base three times, stole a base and scored two runs to help the Brewers reach 91 wins for the first time since 1992. Milwaukee needs a combination of three wins or Cardinals losses to clinch the division.

Chicago's Randy Wells (7-5) allowed six hits and five runs in five innings.

### Reds 6, Astros 4

In Cincinnati, Homer Bailey shut Houston down again and came up with a career-high three hits and Devin Mesoraco homered to help Cincinnati end a four-game losing streak.

Brandon Phillips also homered while Jay Bruce had three hits and Dave Sappelt and Juan Francisco each added two hits for the Reds.

Bailey (9-7), who went into the game 3-0 with a 0.86 ERA in three starts against the Astros this season, allowed six hits and two runs in seven innings.

Francisco Cordero pitched the ninth for his 34th save.

Houston starter Bud Norris (6-11) left the game two outs into the third inning with discomfort in his right shoulder. Norris allowed seven hits and three runs with two walks and three strikeouts.

### Cardinals 11, Mets 6

In St. Louis, pinch-hitter Ryan Theriot hit a double with the bases loaded in the seventh inning to help keep St. Louis in the wild-card chase.

Albert Pujols went 4 for 5 to push his batting average to a season-high .304. It was the 36th four-hit game of his career and seventh of the season.

The Cardinals' 11th win in 13 games kept them 2Ω behind Atlanta in the wild-card chase.

The Cardinals scored six times in the seventh to come back from an early 4-0 deficit after the Braves beat Florida 4-0.

Theriot hit a pitch from Tim Byrdak into the gap in left-center to bring in Pujols and Lance Berkman, who both singled against Josh Stinson (0-2) for a 7-6 lead.

Pinch-hitter Adron Chambers followed an intentional walk to Yadier Molina with a three-run triple and Nick Punto added an RBI single.

Reliever Octavio Dotel (4-3) was the winner.

New York has lost 10 of its last 13 games.

### Padres 2, Rockies 1

In Denver, Mat Latos tossed 8 2-3 shutout innings and Orlando Hudson had two hits for San Diego.

Latos (8-14) got just his third win since June 27 despite stringing together 10 straight quality starts. He struck out a season-high nine and came within a pitch of his second career complete game.

Eric Young Jr. had two hits for Colorado, which has lost six straight.

The Padres didn't need much offense against Rockies starter Jhoulys Chacin to win for the fourth time in the last five games. Jason Bartlett scored on Hudson's single in the first to make it 1-0, and Hudson and Jeremy Hermida hit consecutive doubles in the sixth to make it 2-0.

Chacin (11-13) allowed one earned run and six hits, struck out four and walked two in six innings.

Rookie Jordan Pacheco singled up the middle to break up the shutout and Heath Bell came in for his 40th save.

### Dodgers 2, Giants 1

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw became the Los Angeles Dodgers' first 20-game winner in 21 years, beating San Francisco 2-1 and pushing the Giants closer to elimination from the NL West race.

Kershaw (20-5) allowed six hits and one run in 7 1-3 innings, walked two and struck out six to go 5-0 against the Giants this season—the first Dodger to do so since Vic Lombardi in 1946.

Four of the wins came against Tim Lincecum, with Kershaw allowing one earned run in those games.

Javy Guerra pitched the ninth to earn his 19th save in 20 chances.

Lincecum (13-13) extended his career-high loss total, giving up two runs and eight hits in seven innings.

The loss ended the Giants' eight-game winning streak and dropped them another game behind Atlanta and St. Louis in the NL wild-card race. They trail the Braves by 4 1/2 and the Cardinals by 2 with eight games to play.

### Pirates 5, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Charlie Morton threw six scoreless innings and Pittsburgh slowed Arizona's drive toward the NL West title.

Any combination of three Arizona victories or San Francisco losses and the Diamondbacks will dethrone the Giants as division champions.

Derrek Lee hit a two-run homer in the eighth for the Pirates and Pedro Alvarez had a solo shot in the second.

Morton (10-10), loser of his previous four starts, allowed three hits and struck out five in his first victory since Aug. 8.

Daniel Hudson (16-11) lasted five innings for the Diamondbacks, allowing three runs and seven hits.

Joel Hanrahan pitched a perfect ninth for his 39th save in 42 tries.

# Pac-12 says no to further conference expansion

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Twelve is enough for the Pac-12, putting the Big 12 in position to survive yet another round of conference realignment.

The Pac-12 presidents and chancellors decided late Tuesday night not to expand.

"After careful review we have determined that it is in the best interests of our member institutions, student-athletes and fans to remain a 12-team conference," Commissioner Larry Scott said in a statement. "While we have great respect for all of the institutions that have contacted us, and certain expansion proposals were financially attractive, we have a strong conference structure and culture of equality that we are committed to preserve."

Texas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas Tech were considering a potential move from the Big 12 to the Pac-12. After expanding from the Pac-10 with new members Utah and Colorado last year, members of the new Pac-12 decided not to stretch the league farther east.

"We were not surprised by the Pac 12's decision to not expand at this time," Oklahoma President David Boren said. "Even though we had decided not to apply for membership this year, we have developed a positive relationship with the leadership of the conference and we have kept them informed of the progress we've been making to gain agreement from the Big 12 for changes which will make the conference more stable in the future.

"Conference stability has been our first goal and we look forward to achieving that goal through continued membership in the Big 12 Conference."

Meanwhile, across the county in New York, Big East Commissioner John Marinatto emerged from a three-hour meeting with officials from the league's football schools to say his members "pledged to each other that they are committed to move forward together."

The Big East also has been staring at an uncertain future after Pittsburgh and Syracuse announced last weekend they are moving to the Atlantic Coast Conference.

But now it appears the Big East, like the Big 12, stands a good chance to survive, too—for now.

Marinatto said all the league's members—including Notre Dame and the seven other non-football members—are committed to aggressively recruiting replacements for Syracuse and Pittsburgh, though he would not indicate which schools are candidates.

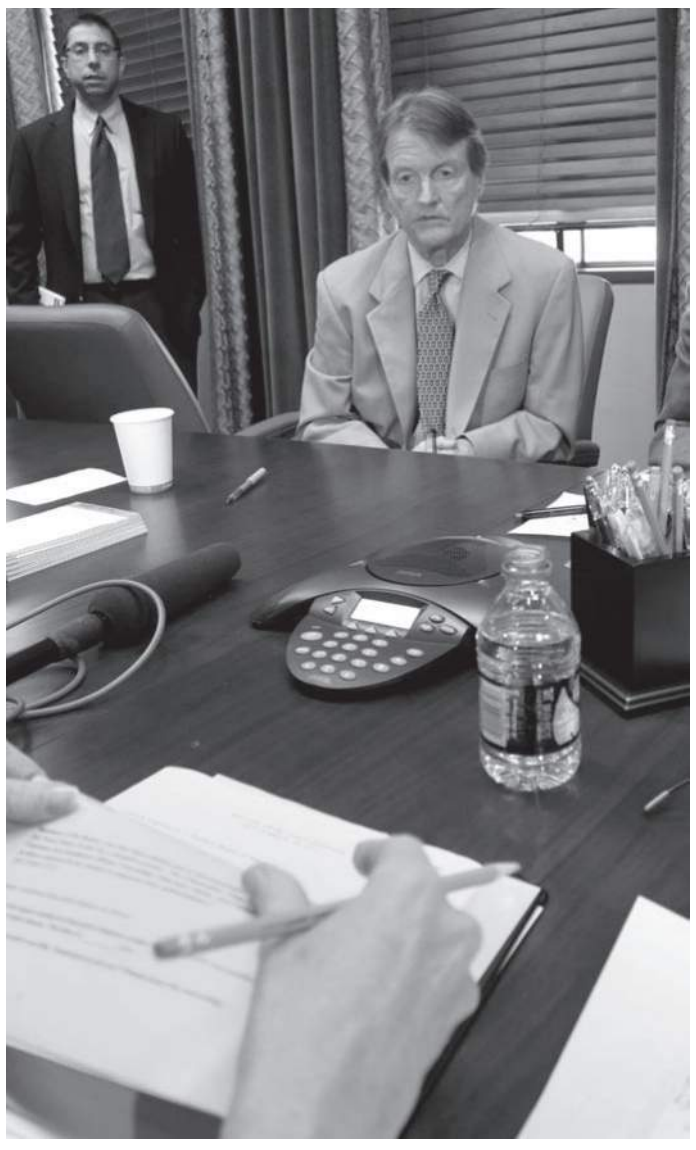
He said the league will enforce the 27-month notice agreement in its bylaws and not allow Syracuse and Pitt to leave until the 2014-15 academic year.

He also said he expects TCU to join the league in 2012 as previously agreed upon.

As for the Big 12, the board of regents at Texas and Oklahoma voted to give their presidents the right to choose a new conference. Oklahoma State's regents have scheduled a special meeting Wednesday about conference realignment.

Oklahoma State was going to follow Oklahoma's lead and Texas Tech planned to do the same with Texas.

Texas and Oklahoma were not acting together. Texas officials had stated several times it wanted to keep the Big 12 alive.



AP

University of Texas president Bill Powers, seated, takes part in a teleconference with the University System Board of Regents to discuss conference realignment, in Austin, Texas on Monday, Sept. 19, 2011.

Oklahoma officials said they were looking for stability and equal revenue sharing, which does not occur in the Big 12. Texas has its own cable television network.

Now it appears the Longhorns and Sooners will have to figure out a way to continue to live with each other.

A person familiar with the schools' discussions said Texas and Oklahoma officials are expected to meet in the next few days to negotiate an agreement to keep the universities in the league for at least the next five years. The person requested anonymity because the meeting had not been announced.

Whether other schools would be invited to join that meeting was unclear Tuesday night.

Scott tried to bring Oklahoma and Texas into his conference last summer, but his bid to create a Pac-16 fell short when Texas decided to stay in the Big 12, in part to start its own network.

Nebraska and Colorado did leave the Big 12, but Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe managed to keep the conference together.

When the Longhorn Network became a reality, Texas A&M had had enough.

A&M, which flirted with the Southeastern Conference last year, reached out to the SEC and ended up being invited to join that league earlier this month. That deal has not yet been finalized because some Big 12 members, such as Baylor and Iowa State, have not waived the right to possibly sue Texas A&M and the SEC.

But if the Big 12 and its new 13-year, $1 billion television deal reached with Fox Sports in April survives, the exit should be clear for Texas A&M. And the rest of the Big 12 can go back to looking for a replacement.

After the Pac-10 grew by two, adding Colorado and Utah from the Mountain West, the league negotiated a landmark 12-year television contract with Fox and ESPN worth about $3 billion, allowing the conference to quadruple its media rights fees and start its own network.

The university presidents decided they didn't need to share their newfound wealth with more schools.

"We have a very good situation and a bright future," Stanford athletic director Bob Bowlsby said.

It's hard to say for sure if this will put an end to conference realignment for a while. Many thought after last summer's maneuvering, things would settle down and that barely lasted a year.

ACC Commissioner John Swofford has said his league is comfortable with 14 members, which it will have when Pitt and Syracuse join, but is not "philosophically" opposed to expanding to 16.

Despite their latest pledge to work together, the Big East still seems susceptible to another raid by the ACC.

Adding UConn and possibly Rutgers, located in New Jersey, would allow the ACC to further extend its reach into the Northeast and New York City television market.

The SEC will be up to 13 schools when Texas A&M's move is finally official and even though it has said it can stay at the number, it seems logical to go to 14.

West Virginia and Missouri have both been speculated to be candidates and there were reports earlier Tuesday that the SEC and Missouri had a tentative agreement.

The SEC shot that down.

"The Southeastern Conference has not agreed formally or informally to accept any institution other than Texas A&M, and there have not been conference discussions regarding changes in divisional alignments," SEC associate commissioner Charles Bloom said.

With Texas and Oklahoma still around, there might not be a reason for the Missouri to relocate.

# Source: Representatives of NBA owners, union to meet Wednesday

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Representatives for NBA owners and players will meet twice this week, perhaps only days before training camps would have to be postponed without a new labor deal.

Staffs from both sides will meet Wednesday without leadership from either side, a person with knowledge of the plans said Tuesday. Commissioner David Stern, Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver, union executive director Billy Hunter, president Derek Fisher of the Lakers and other top negotiators would rejoin the talks for another meeting Thursday.

Without a breakthrough then, the NBA would likely be out of time before being forced to make changes to the calendar.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the meeting details are supposed to remain confidential.

Camps have been expected to open Oct. 3. During the 1998 lockout that reduced the season to 50 games, camps that were scheduled to begin Oct. 5 were postponed on Sept. 24.

The Nov. 1 start of the regular season could even be in jeopardy with the sides still fighting over the salary cap structure. Players were planning to make what Hunter called a "significant" financial concession during a full bargaining session last Tuesday, but that fell through when owners rejected the union's insistence that the current cap system remain intact as a condition of their money move.

Both sides then met with their members Thursday. Owners were in Dallas, where they were updated on the labor talks and discussed an enhanced revenue sharing system that Stern said is coming once the deal with the players is complete.

The union has argued it should be part of these negotiations, believing owners could address their losses by sharing better among themselves.

Owners also want a larger portion of basketball revenues after players were guaranteed 57 percent in the old collective bargaining agreement that expired when June 30 ended. Players had proposed lowering that to 54.3 percent before the lockout began, and though it's not clear how much lower they were prepared to go last week, Stern indicated it had them moving in the right direction toward agreement on that aspect.

## *Ainge, Rivers eager for end of* NBA *lockout*

**WESTON, Mass.** (AP)—Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers and general manager Danny Ainge have been playing a lot of golf lately. They may have extra time to play more.

With the NBA lockout in progress, the scheduled opening of training camp next week remains in jeopardy.

Rivers and Ainge fended off questions Monday about the labor problems between the league and its players association. Last Tuesday, a meeting between the executive committee of the NBA Players Association and the owners' labor relations committee produced no progress.

Ainge was the coach of the Phoenix Suns during the last NBA lockout and has sour memories.

"Everybody wants to play and everybody wants to work. It's not fun for anybody," he said during the team's annual charity golf tournament.

The Celtics have just seven signed players and cannot add to their roster while the lockout continues. They're also working with a revamped coaching staff

"We're just getting organized," Ainge said. "It gives us some time to step back and re-evaluate the entire league and European players worldwide and anticipate the draft. So, we've just been doing all the little things and getting organized with our staff."

During the offseason, assistant coach Lawrence Frank became head coach of the Detroit Pistons and took along another member of the Celtics staff, Roy Rogers, as an assistant. Frank's duties in coaching the Celtics defense will be assumed by assistants Mike Longabardi and Kevin Eastman. Armond Hill will replace Rogers in coaching the big men.

"Defensively, Longo will be the leader," Rivers said. "Everyone will have the same input they had before. Kevin Eastman was really important for Lawrence and Tibbs (former assistant coach Tom Thibodeau, now head coach of the Chicago Bulls) and that role won't change much at all."

Rivers said having a coach in charge of defensive responsibilities allows him to concentrate on coaching the entire team.

"You just have to let go," he said. "It took me years to do it, but it's the right thing to do."

Ainge said the Celtics have been scouting international competitions, such as the recent FIBA Americas and EuroBasket tournaments. They have several spots to fill on their roster, although some of their own players who became free agents after the season could return.

"We have seven signed players," Rivers said. "The tough part is not knowing the rest of your roster."

Both Ainge and Rivers spent part of their summers following their children's dreams.

"I've been following my boys around the AAU circuit," said Ainge, who has six children.

The lockout allowed Rivers to accompany his son Austin, a freshman guard at Duke, as the Blue Devils traveled to China and Dubai in August.

He said he has enjoyed the time off but hopes the labor difficulties will end soon.

"Decompressing is always good," Rivers said, "but we're beginning to get antsy again."

# Nelvis victorious at Top Pool Bar

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marc Brian Nelvis became the first main event qualifier of Top Pool Bar's $600 Open 8-Ball Tournament after beating Zheng Jian Qing last Sunday.

Nelvis bested a field of eight players who participated in the event's opening episode.

He won $20 and entrance into the $600 main event scheduled for Jan. 8, 2012; Zheng won back his $5 entrance fee for placing second.

As the first qualifier, Nelvis is now prohibited to compete in future weekly events.

There are 16 more chances to qualify for the main event, where $300 and a custom pool cue goes to the winner with $200 set aside to the runner-up and another $100 for third place.

Nelvis defeated Greg DeLeon Guerrero Jr. in his first match, but fell to Qing in the first semifinal pairing. However since the tournament utilizes a double-elimination format, Nelvis still had an outside chance for first place.

Zheng went on to best R.J. Mascarinas to clinch a twice-to-beat advantage over the remaining field.

Mascarinas sunk three balls after the break, but Zheng caught fire and did not give him a second chance at the table.

Meanwhile, Nelvis survived James Wabinga in their elimination match and went on to take out Dean Borja and then Mascarinas for a berth into the finals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marc Brian Nelvis lines up a shot on the 8-ball in Sunday's Top Pool Bar-$600 Open 8-Ball Tournament qualifier.

In his second crack at Zheng, Nelvis pocketed four balls after the break, but missed his fifth shot.

Qing scored five balls before giving Nelvis a second chance, in which the latter wasted no time settling the score with his rival.

Then in the final rack, Nelvis won the break, but came up empty. Zheng drained six shots in a row and it looked as though he had the title in the bag, but missed a tough seventh shot.

Nelvis answered and sunk four balls, but had to opt for a defensive fifth shot. This led to Zheng being forced to announce a safety shot, and as the game went on, Nelvis managed to pocket his remaining three balls before being left with just the 8-ball still on the table.

Under pressure, Zheng tied the score at seven apiece, but missed the critical money shot for the win. Nelvis buckled down and caught his second wind to pull off the unlikely upset.

There are still openings for this Sunday's event. It costs $5 to enter and all players of any skill level are welcome to compete.

The weekly double-elimination events utilize Billiard Congress of America rules, which basically means "ball-in-hand" rules will be in effect. Contact Top Pool Bar's Zheng at 287-7676 for more information.

# Patrick Cepeda wins Sunday 8-ball tourney

Patrick Cepeda took top honors in Sunday's 19th Hole 8-Ball tournament for the second week in a row.

Nizer Masayos also repeated in second place, and again only lost to Cepeda.

Cepeda drew his son, also Patrick, in the first round and took a close match. He then defeated Patrick Taitano and Masayas on way to the top of the winners bracket.

The band joined in, with Nolas Kaliga coming in after performing at 19th Hole late the night before. He took a close first match from veteran sharpshooter Luis Aldan. Taitano got by Dennis Cruz and Kaliga before Cepeda sent him to the losers bracket.

Masayas defeated Ron Chisato, Norman Tenorio, and George Pedro before falling to Cepeda. Tenorio won his first round match with Leonard Sablan, while Pedro slipped by Taylor Watanabe.

Aldan fought back through the losers bracket, eliminating Cruz, Patrick Cepeda Jr. and Taitano. He fell one game short of the money, as Chisato also stormed back with wins over Sablan, Kaliga, Pedro, and Aldan.

Chisato won a close match with Aldan, but Masayas danced past him for the second time to take the losers bracket final and earn a second try against Cepeda. Cepeda still had his rhythm and sailed to his second consecutive first place trophy.

The tournament is double elimination following BCA rules, with sign-up starting at 4pm. The entry fee is only $5.

The contests are held at 19th Hole, located in Lower Navy Hill. Coming from Garapan, it is just before you get to the Bank of Hawaii traffic light, past Grand Market and before Jane's Barbecue.

Starting this Thursday, there will be a single elimination 9-ball tournament with a $10 entry fee. Matches are a race to two wins, with 9-ball experts having to win three times. Sign-up starts at 7pm.

Saturday is for dart players, with a blind draw, double elimination tournament starting at 7:30 pm.

First, second, and third place finishers in all contests take home trophies and split the pot.

Players can warm up with an ice-cold bucket of beer for $10 from 3pm to 7pm. Beer cans are only $2.50 after 7pm.

For more information, contact Rose or Ken Phillips at 788-5929. ***(PR)***

## VISMINDA

*From Page 28*

MAFEA answered with a short 5-0 rally to threaten, 71-72. It had a chance to grab the lead in the 1:56 mark when it had possession, however Elmer Pineda's inbound pass slipped away from Ed Cosino's hands.

After the error, MAFEA committed a defensive lapse when it left Abedes open from the left key and the VisMinda forward connected on a triple, upping their lead to four, 75-71, 1:17 left in the fourth canto.

Pineda's split made it a 75-72 count. But Abedes stretched the lead to six, 78-72, when he drove to the hoops, made the basket, and drew a foul on Ferdie de la Torre, 46 seconds remaining in the game.

Pineda kept MAFEA's hopes alive when he connected on a triple. After the basket, MAFEA was forced to foul Ray Lizama to stop the clock, which read at 21.4 seconds. Lizama muffed the first charity, but canned the second one to give VisMinda the insurance basket, 79-75.

MAFEA took a while to set up its offense in the ensuing play and when it did, Cosino faltered on a desperation trey and VisMinda collared the defensive rebound to seal the win.

Lizama paced VisMinda with 23 points, while Abedes chipped in 22. Jack Palacios and Junior Renguul also finished in double figures with 14 and 13 markers, respectively.

Dado Vistal and Bicera led MAFEA with 18 points each, while Cosino added 14, but was scoreless in the fourth quarter.

Renguul hit his shots early, tallying eight points in the opening period and powering VisMinda to a 20-13 advantage. MAFEA inched closer at the break, 31-33, as Vistal started connecting from downtown.

Then at the start of the second half, VisMinda had their biggest lead at nine points, 62-53, as it also hit a couple of triples and Lizama bulldozed his way to the basket in the third quarter.

In the final canto, MAFEA managed to force the first deadlock in the game, 66-66, behind the five straight points of de la Torre, with about four minutes left in the match. However, Abedes and Lizama joined forces in a quick 6-0 swing to regain the upper hand. Abedes made a layup, fed Lizama for a fastbreak basket, and then drilled a short jumper. Abedes kept it going in the clutch, capitalizing on MAFEA's failure to go back on defense quickly.

VisMinda will battle MDX in the semis next week, while Cabalen will duel the winner of the MAFEA-SWAFSO tiff.

**VisMinda/PIAHI 79** – Lizama 23, Abedes 22, Palacios 14, Renguul 13, Gabaldon 3, Ruluked 2.

**MAFEA/RNV 75** – Vistal 18, Bicera 18, Cosino 14, Pineda 9, de la Torre 9, Canoy 5, Manalili 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 20-13, 33-31, 62-53, 79-75.

## THREE

*From Page 28*

likt. Mobil/Bayani (3-3) occupies the fourth spot, while Cavite/Andok's (2-5) to complete the seven-team playoffs.

Kae Bernardo, Wowie Abuel, and Bon Tamayo teamed up in Cabalen's 19-point win over VisMinda. Bernardo had a game-high 26 points, while Abuel and Tamayo logged 20 and 18, respectively.

VisMinda absorbed its second straight loss, as it played with a depleted crew and the remaining players failed to get their acts together. VisMinda was without the injured Darwin Barbo and Errol Peredo and though Rolly Paraiso, Elgene Mangali, and Manalo Manalo scored in double figures, they could not make successive baskets.

VisMinda was still in the game after the first half, falling behind by single digits, 36-44, before Cabalen stepped on the gas in the third and pulled away, 69-47. Tamayo led the breakaway, converting four triples and recording 14 points.

Abuel continued Cabalen's impressive outside shooting in the fourth, nailing two triples and firing eight points, while Bernardo added six to complete Cabalen's domination of VisMinda.

Bernardo kept Cabalen on top in the first half, as he sizzled for 17 points. He had a slow start, drilling only two field goals in the first period that ended with Cabalen ahead by only five, 21-16. Bernardo then was unstoppable in the second canto, scoring Cabalen's last 11 points for their eight-point lead at the break.

**Cabalen/Noni 89** – Bernardo 26, Abuel 20, Tamayo 18, Pagarao 9, Demapan 6, Miranda 2, Yabut 2, David 2.

**VisMinda/Satbahi 70** – Paraiso 14, Mangali 11, Manalo 10, Aquino 7, Inos 6, Camacho 6, De Dios 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 21-5, 44-36, 69-47, 89-70.

## JUNIOR

*From Page 28*

RGA is also planning to hold a two-man best ball tournament before the year ends and is asking members to give inputs on how the competition will be conducted.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Olopai at 483-5508, Tony Rogolifoi at 288-3515, and Jess Wabol at 288-1129.

## 40 TEAMS

*From Page 28*

the last game at 4:20pm.

Shirley's 2 is composed of the club's U18 female players.

"Since there are no U18 girls division, the Youth Football Committee has allowed Shirley's U18 girls to enter and compete in the U15 boys division," Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ed Salas said.

Salas added that players in the U15 division can also play in the U18.

"Last season, players cannot simultaneously play in two divisions. However, only a maximum of five players can play up at any given time and may do so weekly or sparingly. It is up to the coach of each team to decide which players can play up and how many (not more than five) provided that the players are skilled enough and have the mental and physical abilities. While NMIFA welcomes advancement and development of players, we are also concerned of their safety and coaches must insure that the players are talented enough and physically ready to play in a higher division," Salas said.

In the girls U15, only five teams will compete. Matansa FC will defend its title against Paire, MP United, Tan Holdings, and Shirley's. Two games will be played every Saturday and since NMIFA has yet to secure permission to use the Hopwood Junior High School Field, all games are scheduled at the San Antonio Elementary School.

Tan Holdings will play in the opener at 3pm against Matansa, while MP United will face Paire in the second match at 4:30pm.

The boys U18 division will be a three-team fight among Paire, MP United, and Matansa. MP United will start its title defense against Paire this Saturday at the Oleai pitch at 9am.

Only the standings in the U15 and U18 leagues will be recorded, as games in the U6, U8, U10, and U12 are for developmental football purposes only.

The co-ed U16 has five teams in Tan Holdings, Shirley's Paire, Matansa, and MP United and U8 has eight in Matansa, Paire 1 and 2, Tan Holdings 1 and 2, MP United 1 and 2, and Shirley's.

Eight teams are also entered in the U10 with Paire, Tan Holdings, and MP United having two squad each and Shirley's and Matansa fielding only one apiece. Matansa has three teams in the U12, Paire has two, and Tan Holdings, MP United, and Shirley's has one each. Games in the U6 to U12 age groups will be played in various school fields.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York | 93 | 60 | .608 | – |
| Boston | 88 | 67 | .568 | 6 |
| Tampa Bay | 85 | 68 | .556 | 8 |
| Toronto | 78 | 76 | .506 | 15 1/2 |
| Baltimore | 64 | 90 | .416 | 29 1/2 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-Detroit | 89 | 65 | .578 | – |
| Cleveland | 76 | 77 | .497 | 12 1/2 |
| Chicago | 75 | 79 | .487 | 14 |
| Kansas City | 68 | 87 | .439 | 21 1/2 |
| Minnesota | 59 | 94 | .386 | 29 1/2 |

**West Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Texas | 89 | 65 | .578 | – |
| Los Angeles | 84 | 70 | .545 | 5 |
| Oakland | 69 | 85 | .448 | 20 |
| Seattle | 65 | 89 | .422 | 24 |

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-Philadelphia | 98 | 56 | .636 | – |
| Atlanta | 88 | 67 | .568 | 10 1/2 |
| Washington | 74 | 79 | .484 | 23 1/2 |
| New York | 73 | 81 | .474 | 25 |
| Florida | 70 | 85 | .452 | 28 1/2 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Milwaukee | 91 | 64 | .587 | – |
| St. Louis | 85 | 69 | .552 | 5 1/2 |
| Cincinnati | 75 | 80 | .484 | 16 |
| Pittsburgh | 69 | 86 | .445 | 22 |
| Chicago | 68 | 87 | .439 | 23 |
| Houston | 53 | 101 | .344 | 37 1/2 |

**West Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arizona | 89 | 66 | .574 | – |
| San Francisco | 83 | 71 | .539 | 5 1/2 |
| Los Angeles | 77 | 76 | .503 | 11 |
| Colorado | 70 | 84 | .455 | 18 1/2 |
| San Diego | 67 | 88 | .432 | 22 |

x-clinched division

**Yesterday's Games**

Washington 4, Philadelphia 3, 10 innings 1st game
Washington 3, Philadelphia 2nd game
Atlanta 4, Florida 0
Cincinnati 6, Houston 4
Milwaukee 5, Chicago Cubs 1
St. Louis 11, N.Y. Mets 6
San Diego 2, Colorado 1
Pittsburgh 5, Arizona 3
L.A. Dodgers 2, San Francisco 1
Cleveland 4, Chicago White Sox 3 1st game
Chicago White Sox 5, Cleveland 4 2nd game
N.Y. Yankees 5, Tampa Bay 0
L.A. Angels 10, Toronto 6
Baltimore 7, Boston 5
Kansas City 10, Detroit 2
Seattle 5, Minnesota 4
Texas 7, Oakland 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 2011 Pacific Games Baseball Competition

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Members of CNMI Baseball Team celebrate their finals victory.

Jerome Delos Santos and Joshua Jones show their gold medals after the awards ceremony for the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

The Robinson Baseball Field in Mont-Dore, New Caledonia, is shown here all set to host the six participating countries.

Guam and CNMI players pose for a group photo after the gold medal duel.

CNMI players pose with other participants in the baseball competition in the 2011 Pacific Games.

Members and officials of the CNMI Baseball Team proudly show the gold medal they won in the 2011 Pacific Games during the awards ceremony in New Caledonia.

Members of CNMI Baseball Team huddle at the mound after beating Guam in the finals, 8-4.

Members of CNMI Baseball Team flash the No. 1 sign after winning their gold medal match against Guam, 8-4.

Gov. Benigno Fitial, fourth from left back row, wife Josie, third from left back row, Rep. Edmund Villagomez, fifth from right back row, and runner Douglas Dillay, left back row, pose with the CNMI Baseball Team.

CNMI and Palau players huddle after their semis match.

**Pac-12 says no further expansion**

25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Yankees beat Rays to move closer to playoffs**

24



# VisMinda/PIAHI marches to semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

VisMinda/PIAHI showed nerves of steel in the homestretch to eke out a 79-75 win against MAFEA/RNV in the playoff round of the UFO Inter-Organization Masters Basketball Docomo Pacific Cup 2011 on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

The victory put VisMinda in the semis, joining defending champion Cabalen/Wings Travel and MDX/Armatech. The loss moved MAFEA in the brink of elimination and it must prevail over SWAFSO/Ebisuya today to advance to the next round.

Jun Abedes gave VisMinda a slot to the next round when he scored eight straight points in the last 2:15 of the match, foiling MAFEA's repeated comeback bids.

Abedes started his scoring spree with a short jumper, lifting VisMinda to a 72-66 advantage. 2:06 to go in the game.

**See VISMINDA on Page 26**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

VisMinda/Piahi's Jack Palacios, center, goes for a reverse layup against MAFEA/RNV's Ferdie de la Torre, left, and Ed Manalili during their masters playoff game in the UFO Docomo Cup on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

## *Three straight wins for Cabalen/Noni*

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Cabalen/Noni's Kae Bernardo, left, is tangled up with VisMinda/Satbahi's Tom Santos as they battle for the loose ball during their game in the UFO Bud Cup on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Cabalen/Noni notched its third win in a row after whipping VisMinda/Satbahi, 89-70, in the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League 2011 Bud Cup on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Cabalen now has a 5-1 record, boosting its chances for the top spot and a bye in the first round of the playoffs. The Noni-supported squad is only a game behind second-running UPAA/Docomo Hoopaholics (6-1). Namfrel/Marianas Health Service Proa is on top of the nine-team field with a perfect 5-0 record. These three squads could still switch places, as they have games left in the regular season. Cabalen will face Proa on Sept. 29 and Cavite on Sept. 25, while Proa will meet Cavite this Sunday and the Hoops on Sept. 27.

VisMinda fell to a 4-4 mark and with no games left, it could either place sixth or fifth in the team standings. Right now VisMinda shares the fifth to sixth place with MAFEA/Ali'i Konf-

*See THREE on Page 26*

# Junior golfer takes RGA September Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A junior golfer broke into the winners circle of the Refaluwasch Golf Association.

Sixteen-year-old Lawrence Camacho Jr. claimed the RGA September Ace after shooting a net 72 in the monthly competition held on Sept. 11 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Actually, Camacho's net score was the third best in the day behind the 70 of Ray Tigilau and 71 of Dwayne Stephens. However, the two veterans have already won in the past monthly tournaments thus were disqualified for the September Ace.

Manny Mangarero carded a net 72 too in the September tournament, but lost to Camacho in the scoreboard tiebreak. Four other RGA members joined the competition with Nick Guerrero firing a 74, Tars Olopai tallying a 78, and Joe Saures and Tom Tebuteb posting similar scores of 81.

Tebuteb won the closest to the pin shot on hole No. 6, while Stephens prevailed on hole No. 12.

Meawhile, RGA will hold its October qualifying tournament this Sunday at Coral Ocean Point. Check-in time is 11am, while tee off is at 12pm. Then the October Ace tournament will take place on Oct. 9, also at COP.

The club is advising the first nine monthly Ace winners to make sure they meet the required number of tournaments to qualify for the RGA Club Championship in December. Ace winners must compete in at least six RGA-sanctioned events to enter the yearend event.

*See JUNIOR on Page 26*

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Matansa FC striker, right, kicks the ball during their game against Paire FC in the 2011 NMIFA spring league at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. The fall league will open this Saturday.

# 40 teams join fall league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2011 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League will kick off this Saturday with 40 squads participating in the various age group games.

In the competitive boys U15 event, seven teams will battle for the title, including defending champion MP United-1. Joining the field are MP United 2, Matansa FC, Shirley's FC 1 and 2, and Paire FC.

Three matches will be played every Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex with MP United 2 and Shirley's FC seeing action in the opener at 1pm. The defending champion MP United 1 will take on Matansa in the second match at 2:40pm, while Tan Holdings will duel Paire in

*See 40 TEAMS on Page 26*